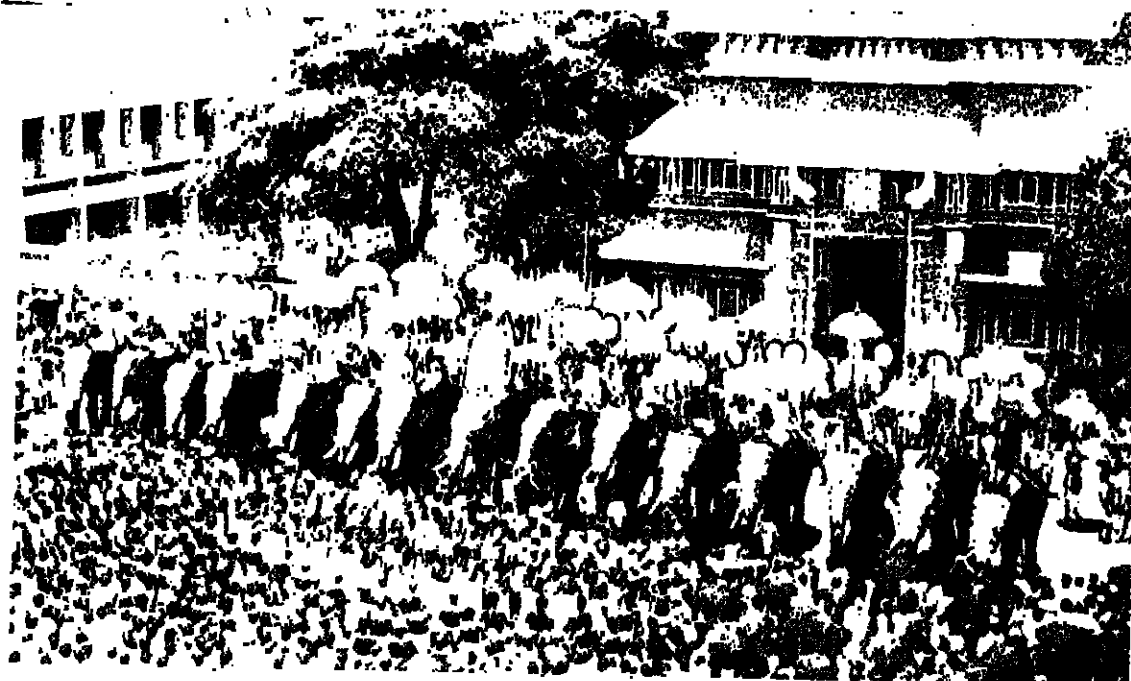




Lining up in front of the Paramakkavu Temple

Pooram festival considered greatest traditional pageant

By V.G.K. Thanam

Star Southern India Correspondent

MANY PEOPLE believe that the world-famous Trichur Pooram, staged every year literally in the heart of the northern Kerala town of Trichur, may also be the world's greatest traditional pageant and spectacle. There ought to be some truth in it. If one is to exclude all government-sponsored annual shows all over the world, like national-day military parades and weaponry displays, and occasional celebrations like the centenary or bicentenary of a nation, or the opening and closing ceremonies of an Olympic competition.

The Trichur Pooram is a traditional socio-religious cultural event, and in that sense, may not have much competition from anywhere else in the world.

This year, on the Pooram day, the gate collection at the nearby exhibition grounds was Rs 200,000 (\$17,000.) At Rs 2 (16 cents) per ticket, that would mean about 100,000 people from among those who came to watch the spectacle of Pooram, must have seen the exhibition also. Though no official count is available, the actual attendance at Pooram must have been two or three times that at the exhibition. That is the kind of public interest the Pooram generates year after year.

Over the years, Pooram has become an international affair, attracting tourists from all over the world. Hotel rooms and private ad-hoc accommodations are completely booked weeks ahead, and this year, reports were that ordinary Hotel rooms with a normal tariff of Rs 40 (\$4) a day, were rented out for as high as Rs 800 (\$67) on the Pooram day.

For an uninitiated foreigner, Pooram is a day of processions of elephants, colour, crowds, drum beats and fire-works. For a localite, it is a show of onepmanship between two fiercely competing temples in the art of pageantry and spectacle. Each temple is bent on putting up the better show and it used to be that each would do its best to field the better and more majestic elephants. Each would also try to field as many elephants as each one could.

When it came to fire works at sun down, each would try to outsmart the other. As this practice tended to produce clashes and violence between the two groups, the authorities fixed the maximum number of elephants each side could field as 15, and dangerous

chemicals were banned from being used in fire works.

As a matter of fact, nine temples participate in the show: three major ones, and six minor ones. Processions start right from 6.30 in the morning and the six minor temples lead their small processions, consisting of three to seven elephants in each party, up to the Pooram grounds. The Pooram grounds surround the Vadakkunnatha Temple which plays the umpire in the competition between Paramakkavu and Thiruvambadi Temples.

In fact, the entire Trichur town is built around the Pooram grounds and the Vadakkunnatha Temple is right at the centre.

After the six minor temples have taken their positions as spectators, Paramakkavu Temple takes the field with 15 caparisoned giant elephants, complete with colourful umbrellas and mahouts. Then, one by one, the elephants march across the field, turn around and take their positions until all the 15 have reached the other side.

Now enter the 15 elephant team of Thiruvambadi Temple and take positions directly opposite that of Paramakkavu Temple, facing each other.

The most colourful part of the

Pooram in day light comes now, when each team displays its wealth of colourful umbrellas by repeatedly changing them. All this goes on in the midst of thunderous beat of drums and the playing of other musical instruments.

At sun down, come more spectacle and sound. Both parties hire the best of professionals and engage in fierce competition in the display of fire works using pyrotechniques, converting the sky into brilliant and moving shades of colour. This grand finale of fire works is considered by many as the best regular show of fire works in the world.

It is even reported that two of the specialists pyrotechnicians of Trichur were specially invited to the United States during the American bicentenary celebrations for the display of their art.

The spirit of competition and rivalry has made the Trichur Pooram a prestigious national festival of Kerala transcending all religious differences. The peculiarly religious element involved in the festival seems to have lost its overwhelming significance and now the Pooram is looked upon more as a secular social and cultural event, like in the case of Kerala's most important national festival of Onam.



The shield at the top carries a miniature deity

However, while the competitive element of the Pooram was being highlighted by all concerned, for many decades now, and while it might increasingly continue to be so in the coming centuries, it must be said that it is not at all known whether the Pooram started as competition. The fact is that it is not even known when and how the Pooram got started.

It is unfortunate that ancient cultures like that in Kerala have not maintained scrupulous records of their past. There are many accounts as to how the Pooram might have evolved into the present stage, mostly based on intelligent guessing, but even guessing does not seem to help much in finding a possible date of origin and its original significance.

It seems possible that it had something to do with the norms style of temple festivity in the Trichur area many centuries ago. It is also possible that when an Aryan sect from Northern India migrated to this area, they might have brought their own deities. The deity at the Thiruvambadi Temple might have originally been a popular deity of northern India. In that case, it is possible that the migrant Aryans might have taken over the Thiruvambadi Temple and ever since the two temples might have been competing in celebrating their respective festival.

This version of the possible evolution of Pooram seems to be the most popular. However, some people find it curious that the originally north Indian deity of the Thiruvambadi temple is said to have had over 10,000 wives, and that the one at the rival temple of Paramakkavu might originally have been a south Indian goddess.

Another historically curious element about the Pooram, or for that matter, about all major festivals in Kerala, is the conspicuous association of caparisoned elephants with it. Here again, only guessing seems to be of any help to solve the puzzle. It is known that local kings rode elephants in war, more to frighten the enemy than for the animals' particular agility or swiftness. Since the forehead was the elephant's most vulnerable point, metal shields might have had been used to protect them.

To show off their wealth, kings might even have used gold shields. Later on, as these very kings were also the protectors of temples, it is possible that caparisoned elephants came to be used for temple festivals also, to take part in the festival processions. However, it must be noted here that elephants were used for war in parts of ancient northern India also, but the animals are not associated with temple festivals there.



Each temple is bent on putting on a better show

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Telecommunications

Cover Story, see pages 4,5



LANVIN
PARIS



By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

SEPARATED FROM home by thousands of kilometres; struggling to climb his way up the ladder in a strange land, really needs a lot of courage and enterprise. This is the way Dr Aziz Shihab, an American of Palestinian origin started weaving his way to the top from his humble beginnings as a copy editor in a small newspaper in Dallas, owned by an old conservative Texan family.

He had to make do with hard work and long hours to prove his ability. "In the US, Arabs have to prove themselves constantly," he said.

Dr Shihab is now senior editor of "Dallas Morning News", a paper with a circulation of half a million copies daily. After 37 years in America, he still feels lost; torn between his Arab origin and his way of life in America.

Dr Shihab, like many other ex-

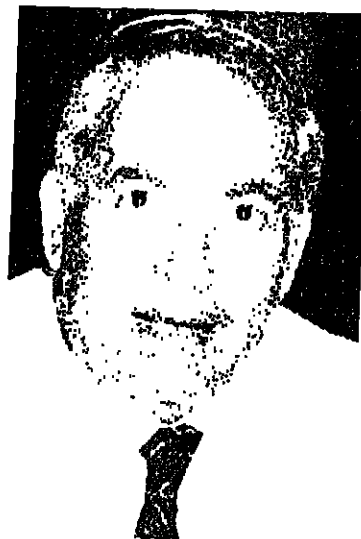
Treasures of Arab World

patriates, have a strong desire to return to their home countries; to their people, "to feel they belong." Even after long years of separation, Arab-Americans still stick to their traditions, culture, eat Arabic food and sing their old songs.

Rich and poor, deep within, they long to take part in building their countries, and in reviving their glorious history — the history of their ancestors.

Dr Shihab asks, "Why doesn't the Arab World open its doors to us and take advantage of our experience and qualifications?" Arab-Americans are begging to be used. They are a treasure that the Arab World is ignoring.

Many have found fame and power, but it all means nothing if they are not surrounded by their people and then make the contri-



Dr Aziz Shihab

butions felt by those with whom they share the same language, the same history.

He added that he feels Arab governments have a big role to play in paving the way for Arab-Americans to return successfully to their homelands. He criticized the way he was treated at the airport upon entering Amman. He was allowed only a two-week entry visa and was asked to report to the police station during his visit to Jordan. "But we're Arabs, and we're not coming to bomb our country. I can see it if this is done to me in Israel!"

Dr Shihab noted that Arabs in the US are very much affected by the Israeli lobby. He said that they have a problem with Zionist influence on US policy, "but the bigger problem is that we are equated with terrorism." He explained that Zionists spend a lot of money to make the American people view the Arabs as terrorists.

As a senior-editor of a major newspaper in the US, Dr Shihab affirmed that his first duty is to his paper. He tries to make people aware of the Middle East problem by speaking with editors and people and by writing. Sometimes I used to write unsigned editorials blasting American policy," he said.

He explained that he is opposed to violence, no matter what roots are. "If throwing a bomb going to bring back Palestine, we'll do it, but it doesn't," he said. The American people are not politically aware, so Arab should concentrate their efforts through the media to make Americans see the other side of the Palestine conflict.

Dr Shihab now has a two-year leave of absence from his paper. For one year, he will be touring Arab countries to gather information and to meet with different people. His book will have the same idea as the "Roots." It is not political. It will be directed mainly at Americans and the Western world, to make them see that Arabs are humans; that they have their own history, culture and their own way of life and rights.

This book will be Dr Shihab's third book. The first was called "Sarban" which was followed by "Steps in Great Britain," besides, about the Palestinian struggle. As a matter of fact, he went to jail for writing the latter book.

Dr Shihab is very well known throughout the Arab World for his writings, and his deep understanding of the Arab issues, despite his long absence from the Middle East.

Making the child an active learner

AMMAN (Star) A two-week workshop for the training of early childhood teachers and educationalists started in Amman last Tuesday with 35 selected participants from public and private sector teachers, and professionals in the field.

The Workshop is sponsored by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation in co-operation with the Faculty of Education at Jordan University and the National Association for the Education of Children. It comes as part of the plans drawn up by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation for the development of its project the Centre for Early Childhood Education which was launched in 1986.

The workshop which is being held at Al-Ahlyah School in Amman will emphasize the developmental nature of children and how they learn, how meaningful curriculum experiences are selected, appropriate methods of instruction as well as materials and equipment that should be found in every classroom. The Training sessions will be conducted in Kindergarten-nursery settings and will focus on the child as an active learner and problem solver with the role of the teacher as facilitator. Following the workshop, participants should be ready to become trainers for inservice training programmes in the field of early childhood education.

Three distinguished US specialists in the field have come to Jordan to offer instruction at the workshop. They are Dr Eleanor Duff, Director of the Department of Early Childhood Education at the University of South Carolina and Consultant to the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, Mrs. Mary Nichols, Director of the Children's Centre at the same University and Mrs. Sue O'Connor, an administrator responsible for early childhood programme in one of South Carolina's largest school districts.

The Noor Al-Hussein has launched the Centre for Early Childhood Education in 1986 as a joint project with the University of Jordan to enhance pre-school child development by improving curricular materials and teacher proficiency. The first phase of the project to develop curricular and teaching materials, launched in 1986, comprises research to identify needs in pre-school education and training pre-school staff at the SOS Children's Village and Salt Community Centre Kindergartens. Phase two incorporates construction of the main centre at the University of Jordan, a similar project at Yarmouk University to serve the northern districts of the country, and on-going research information and teacher-training programmes. The centre's activities are co-ordinated with the National Association for the Education of the Child, recently established under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

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King Hussein receives cable

Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces last Sunday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing his deep appreciation and gratitude for King Hussein's decision to promote him to the rank of field marshal. Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker said in his cable that he was honoured by the promotion and that he was determined to work under the leadership and guidance of King Hussein with renewed efforts and added resolve.

PM meets UN officials

The Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has received in his office, The UN Under-Secretary-General Marrack Gouding, who briefed Mr Rifai on outcomes of his talks during his tour in the Middle East on convening an international conference. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Jean-Claude Aime, Mr Gouding's assistant and Jordan's permanent delegate to the UN, Abdullah Salih.

New appointment

The Prime Ministry accepted the resignation of Captain Amin Al Hussein, Director of Civil Aviation Authority as from 6 June. He is to be appointed a deputy to the Chief Executive of the Royal Jordanian. He will be succeeded by Mr Mahmoud Jamal Baiqaz.

Director leaves for Madrid

Dr Adnan Al Hadidi, General Director of the Archaeology Department last Saturday left to Madrid for a two-week visit at the invitation of the Spanish Ministry of Archaeology within the framework of co-operation between Jordan and Spain. During his visit, Mr Hadidi will confer with the Spanish general director of Archaeology on the means of developing co-operation between the two countries and particularly on the participation of Spanish archaeology experts in the maintenance of Jerash.

Cabinet approves recommendations

The Cabinet last Saturday held a regular session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and decided to raise and unify salaries and allowances of senior government employees as of 1 July 1987. The Cabinet also approved the principles and conditions suggested and recommended by the Ministry of Finance to ensure the application of the registration of land and real-estate tax laws concerned with exempting beneficiaries of housing projects executed by banks and companies of interests.

Association calls for sacrifice

The General Association for Air Transport and Tourism has requested the support of Royal Jordanian employees to put in an hour's overtime work without pay from 1 July - 30 September. This will be in addition to a day's work without pay during the months of July, August and September. The Association's decision was due to the wishes of many Royal Jordanian employees to support their institution.

Changes in nationality law

The Cabinet has decided to

— Preventing drug demand.
— Monitoring international supply of drugs — both legal and illegal drugs.
— Preventing illegal drug trade.

— Curing and rehabilitating drug addicts. A major committee was set up to study the convention's comprehensive plan.

RJ plane slightly damaged

Royal Jordanian official sources have confirmed that a RJ Boeing 747 passenger airliner carrying 232 passengers was hit by a South African Airlines (SAA) plane at Vienna's airport last Saturday. No one was injured, but the RJ plane's left wing was damaged. The RJ Boeing 747 is expected to remain in Vienna for three weeks to undergo repairs.

28 Egyptian piasters as of 1 July, for Jordanians travelling to Egypt through the Aqaba-Nuweibei route. Thus Jordanians wishing to travel will be spared problems pertaining to the conditional change of an amount of \$150 on entering Egypt.

Minister back from drug convention

The Interior Minister Rajai Al Dajani has returned home after taking part in an international convention on drug abuse. Mr Dajani said the convention's main principles and objectives were:

New exchange rate

The Egyptian consul in Aqaba Ahmad Ragheb has announced that it has been decided that the exchange rate of the dollar will be

make an amendment to article 17 of the Jordanian nationality law to permit the acquisition of a second nationality while maintaining Jordanian nationality. Arabs residing in Jordan for a period of 15 years will be given the Jordanian nationality and Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians are permitted to maintain their Jordanian nationality. Children are permitted to maintain their Jordanian nationality when their parents acquire a non-Jordanian nationality.

AIDS victim in Amman

The Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh has announced that a Jordanian with French nationality has been discovered to be carrying the disease AIDS. The patient arrived Amman from France after being

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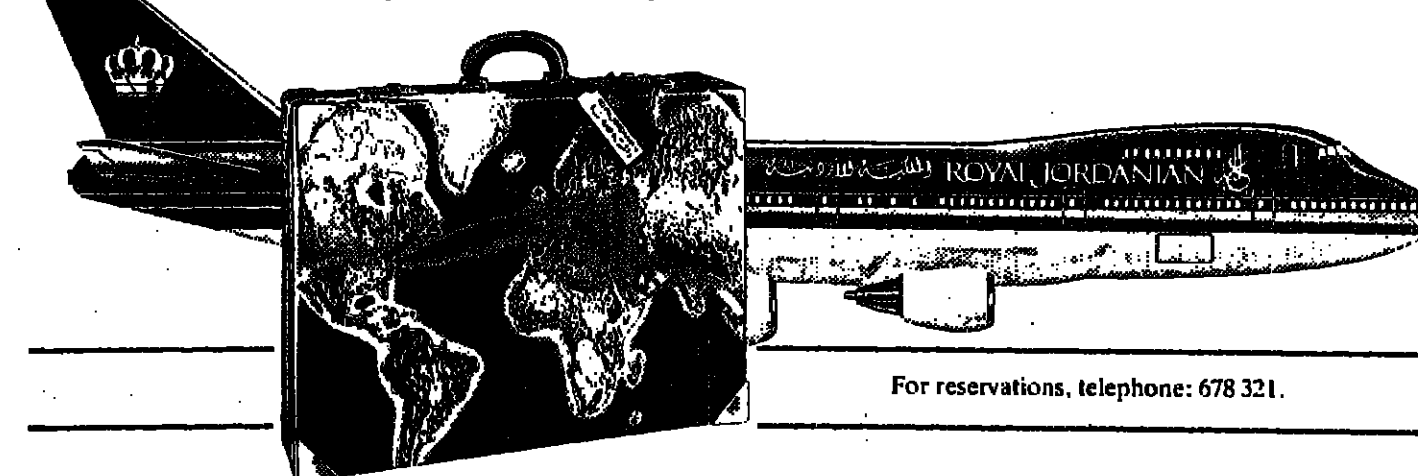
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- Hawatmeh Video Center/down town
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- Kurtuba restaurant/university entrance
- ZERKA
Abu Sharar supermarket Tel 932829
- IRBID
Al Kindi Bookshop
- AJLOUN
Green Mountain cafeteria



Language is no barrier

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

ARABSAT IS now a successfully operating regional Space Telecommunications System with some 14 'Earth Stations' in 14 Arab countries operating with Jordan's 'Earth Station'. Presently, it is linked with 205 Arab pre-assigned dedicated circuits.

Mr Mohammad Shahed Isma'il, Director General of Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) told The Star in an interview that to increase the degree of its utilization, a unanimous decision was taken by the general assembly of ArabSat to allow commercial enterprises to lease some Transponders and to utilize them in any commercial advertising activities through selective TV programmes.

An Arab Spacecraft Corporation (ARSPACO) was recently established for this purpose. So far, it has been used with the intention to broadcast TV programmes on education, health-care, sports, news, religion, and in other areas since such programmes will complement and augment the national ones. ARSPACO will be negotiating with TCC for up-lifting their programmes to ArabSat space segment in due time, revealed Mr Isma'il.

Privatization of TCC

A decision by the Cabinet to privatize the TCC was taken in August 1986 which aimed at allowing the TCC to become autonomous and to possess some degree of commercial flexibility which is necessary for coping with the accelerated development of Telecommunications technology. It will also enable it to reflect the cost and the needs of the market.

As His Majesty King Hussein outlined in his speech at the opening of the Jordan Development Conference: "Here in Jordan, we do not wish to subscribe to abstract economic theory, or engage in mere imitation. Therefore, we do not regard our emphasis on the Private Sector. Our development programmes have consistently stressed its role and recognized its ability to promote growth, initiative and creativity."

"However, we should avoid falling prey to terminology; a public sector is a good thing, and so is an efficient private sector. What is important to us is to bring about basic structural and behavioural changes in the management."

"Contrary to the impressions gathered by many people," says Mr Isma'il, "the TCC, although a corporation run by a Board of Directors, is still a long way from the required financial and administrative autonomy." Efforts, how-

Telecommunications —adopting a modern approach

Communications today rely increasingly on type of equipment — satellites, computers, optical fibres — which simply did not exist 30 years ago. Services transfer of data over a wide range of transmission media, even electronic and "picture" telephones. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimated world sales of telecommunications equipment in 1985 at \$58 billion, with the industrialized nations of the West accounting for nearly 90 per cent and the Middle East share growing.

ever, are underway to implement the first basic step towards privatization.

There are steps to adopt an integral commercial and computerized accounting system instead of the existing conventional cash system adopted by the government. "I believe that the achievement of this goal is in itself very beneficial indeed, irrespective of the future chances of privatization or otherwise," comments Mr Isma'il.

Telecommunications services

Telecommunications services in Jordan, like anywhere in the world, are being planned to cater for the needs of all sectors of the community. International Subscriber Dialling facilities (ISD), telex, facsimile, Mobile Telephone Services (MTS) and cordless telephones are already available.



Mr Mohammad Shahed

ISD services embrace some 71 countries all over the world and the TCC continues to expand its (ISD) facilities depending on the

volume of traffic being carried out to other destinations through semi-automatic means and the conviction of the administration on the other side of the economic feasibility of establishing transit automatic routing.

In December 1986, the TCC put into force new rates which resulted a reduction of 30 per cent for night calls, effective from midnight until 8.00 am. In February 1986, facsimile services were offered to the public. Figures obtained by the TCC indicate a reduction in the income of telex services amounting to 17 per cent mostly attributed to the introduction of the facsimile.

There are presently 802 Mobile Telephone Services (MTS) or car telephones subscribers in Jordan following a reduction in fees by TCC due to the economic recession. The new rates stand now at JD 1000 for installation fees paid

World Telecommunications Equipment Market By Region (*)

Region	1977	1982	1987	Annual growth
North America	14.2	19.2	26.9	1977-87
Developed Europe	6.2	10.0	16.1	8.2 percent
Developed Pacific	2.4	3.2	4.3	10.1 per cent
Middle East	3.6	6.5	10.0	8.1 per cent
Other	4.0	8.2	9.0	10.8 per cent
Total	30.4	45.1	65.3	8.5 per cent
(*) \$ billion at 1977 prices				7.9 per cent

Source: A.D. Little Inc.

In two installments, and an annual subscription of JD 500 with five year exemption. Mr M. Isma'il however, says the TCC does not intend any further reduction in fees.

Cordless telephones, banned in recent years as a result of problems it might cause such as loss of privacy, unauthorized access to a telephone connection, background noise and interference might be reintroduced to the public in the near future. The TCC is in the process of investigating the best and safest methods to offer this facility because the introduction of such a facility requires careful technical and administrative considerations contends Mr Isma'il. He also assures that TCC consultants are presently conducting studies in an effort to evaluate the different systems now available.

Commenting on the difficulties involved in obtaining a line, Mr Isma'il had this to say: "In certain areas where the installation capacity has been already used, customers will have to wait for the vertical and horizontal expansion programmes of the network." He added that the TCC is an integral part of the government's budget and does not enjoy any degree of autonomy, which causes inevitable delay in the execution of certain expansion programmes.

"However, in other areas where such expansions have been completed, we are offering to connect new customers within one week from the date of application." Mr Isma'il also commented on fees and charges saying that an in-depth revision of the national tariffs is imperative. The TCC is approaching it in a systematic and scientific manner; but the results will have to be approved by the Cabinet before they are applied.

Also, the TCC is still assessing the impact of recent reductions in its income hoping that these reductions will act as an incentive to increase the volumes of traffic in order to compensate for the loss of revenue encountered from the reductions.

TCC profits

Responding to statements that TCC profits are high and that it constitutes a good source of income to the budget, Mr Isma'il commented that it was important to note that TCC is a viable, self-sustained entity and does not constitute any burden on the government's budget. Moreover, taking into account that the government is the sole owner of the equity, the figures of profit are modest and within the normal range of profit-yield compared with other companies operating in Jordan.

Developing world expands network

By Henry Harington
Special to The Star

SAM DLAMINI is a healthy child, like most other children in his remote village in Swaziland. But by every rule which applies to poor people in far-flung parts of the Third World, Sam should be dead. His life was saved by a group of computer and telecommunications experts who married their skills and equipment to those of doctors in a London hospital.

Sam appeared to have a liver condition, but it defied on-the-spot diagnosis.

Sophisticated medical diagnostic equipment and complex computer hardware were mounted in a Land Rover and dispatched to the bush. X-ray pictures of the boy's liver were beamed from a satellite dish on the roof of the Land Rover to a satellite orbiting miles overhead and bounced to terminals in the London hospital. There experts viewed the information and teleaxed diagnosis and treatment via the satellite to the Land Rover.

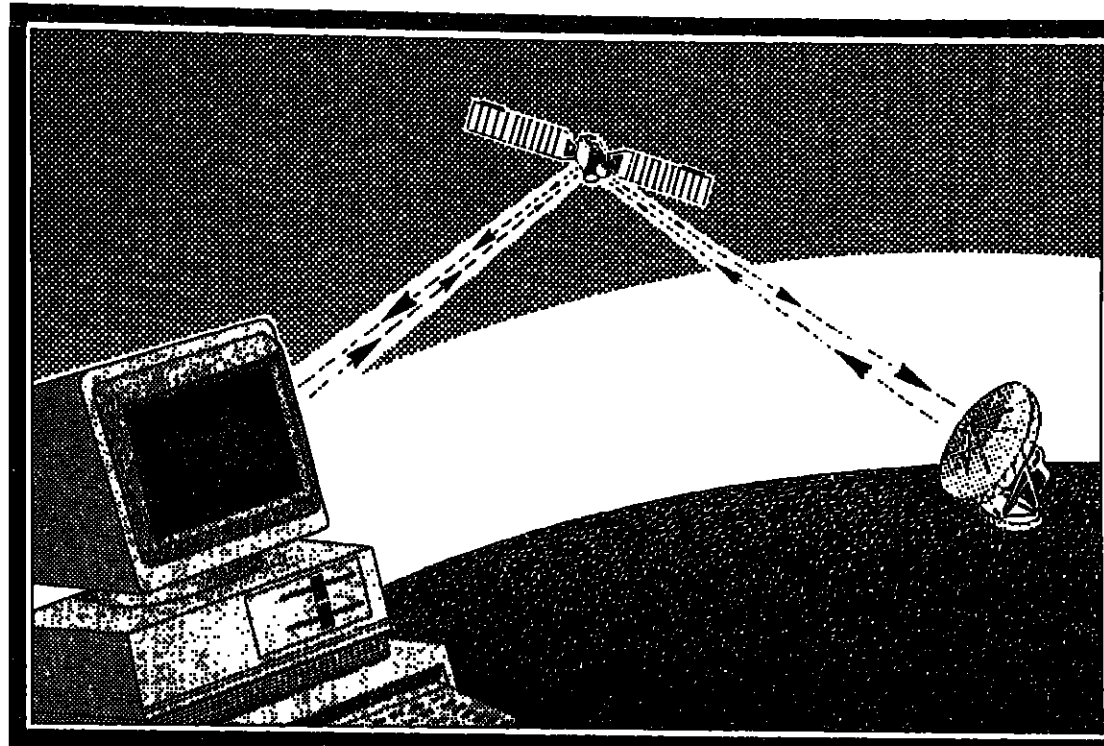
A more permanent scheme, established in the corner of a village a ground station pointed at a satellite to collect information, is being put together by scientists from the United States, Britain and Canada. One of the attractions is that it is based on a small satellite in low orbit, housing a battery-powered computer which can communicate at amateur radio frequencies with inexpensive transmitters and receivers on earth. The space vehicle passes every spot on earth at least twice a day and is capable of relaying messages anywhere.

Satellite imagery from nearly 1,000 km in space already is being used in the Third World to forecast locust swarms, to map soil erosion and pinpoint wells. The Landsat and Meteosat satellites are helping the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to develop a "drought watch" operation over Africa, using images of the continent transmitted several times a day to FAO headquarters in Rome. The satellites have identified fracture lines in the rock base in Burkina Faso which indicated likely sites for artesian wells.

In Tanzania they have overcome the problem of surveying 70,000 sq km of bush and farmland in the Rukwa region, which would have taken years with conventional aerial photography and survey methods. But access by Third World countries to this information is threatened by the industrial world's dominance in available technology. With the explosion in telecommunications in the past decade, the technology is being hard pressed to keep up with the volume of traffic, despite huge advances in the way information can be conveyed. Commissioning of the new technology also seems to lag.

Optic fibres which can transmit information at light frequencies along glass cables can carry many times the traffic of copper coaxial cables, but plans have only recently been announced to lay an optic fibre cable across the Atlantic. The unwillingness of the Japanese to allow foreign companies to operate in their telecommunications environment is hindering the laying of a similar cable across the Pacific. These delays mean satellite time which could be used by developing countries, where the laying and maintenance of land lines would be prohibitive, is not being made available.

The problem is exacerbated by the reluctance of the United States to grant Third World countries guaranteed space positions from which they can operate tele-



communications services. Developing countries argue that the favoured spot, over the equator, is already cluttered with the space vehicles of the developed world. The developed world replies new technology in due course will enable everyone to have enough frequencies; they anticipate use of bigger satellites, re-use of frequencies, and pin-pointing of beams rather than spreading them over a wide area.

Who will win the argument is a matter for conjecture. Certainly

technology has opened many doors.

The computer giant IBM says it has developed a superconductor permitting the conduction of 100 times as much current as at present. This will lead to vastly improved computer chips and ever faster speeds of transmission. Already packet-switching allows greater efficiency in telecommunications. Picture, for example, the sales executive of a chemical company in Kenya who wishes to obtain technical data from his

company headquarters in England.

He types his query into a computer in Nairobi. The information is "packaged" by the computer into small, addressed parcels which travel, individually, by the quickest route available — some may go by satellite, some by submarine cable. When they reach England, the computer there sorts the "packages," queries the computer's information system and sends the answers back to Kenya by the same method.

Not only is this process in-

stantaneous but the packages use lines of communications already in use; speech on a telephone does not use the whole line because talkers pause to take a breath or to ponder briefly in silence; some of the packets slip into the gaps. Packet-switching allows communication to overcome the problem of distance and most calls can be made at local rates, opening doors to computers full of information around the world. Scientists found television broadcasts had gaps in them and have been able to broadcast pages of information on the back of transmissions.

These can be accessed and provide a wide range of information on weather, travel, news and markets.

Many African countries, like Ethiopia, are installing highly modern television equipment which will allow them to use this facility. If remote villages could pick up such signals containing information about market prices, people would know whether it was opportune to send goods for sale. The same sort of technology which enables people in developed countries to avoid entering a bank to transact business is available to facilitate the flow of information in remote areas of the world. People can pay in, withdraw or move money from one account to another either at a "hole in the wall" bank machine or from a home computer, both of which are connected to the bank's central computer by a telephone line.

The equipment can be used for television shopping — viewing a list of goods on a video screen and indicating what one wants to order. In developed countries, this system is used for domestic shopping but there is no reason why the same cannot be done for agricultural implements, seeds or spare parts for machinery. Although satellite communications are promoted via the Pan-African Telecommunications system (Panafel), there are reasons why ground level lines of communications are still practical or cost-efficient, more so when low-maintenance solar-powered repeater stations are used.

Money remains a major obstacle to the development of a comprehensive communications network in Africa, and lack of it is why the UN Transport and Telecommunications Decade for Africa, which ends next year, has been a failure. It was originally hoped to bring the level of telephones per head of population up to a figure comparable with the rest of the world, but when it became clear this would not happen, the target was lowered to one telephone per village. Even this was over-optimistic. It is easy to blame donor countries for this failure, but African countries have a large part of the solution in their own hands.

Telecommunications currently is one of the most profitable fields of business, and the high revenue received by the mostly state-owned and monopolistic telecommunications companies in the West are used to finance development of new technology and services. African countries also have monopoly telecommunications systems, but poor service and equipment maintenance and low investment means there is no revenue to speak of with which to build a profitable system.

There is evidence from the UN Industrial Development Organization and the UN Telecommunications Union that promoting business use of telephones assists profitability and development, and that changes in the accounting at national telecommunications bodies would improve their position. However, that does not remove the most immediate problem of skills in a rapidly developing and changing sphere.

What's new? What's next?

Special to The Star

SUCH IS the flood of new telecommunications services and products, particularly those targeted at office users that potential customers are frequently baffled and overwhelmed when it comes to deciding what suits their needs.

In the new information age, the range of equipment has steadily expanded, blurring the boundaries between data processing, standard office equipment and telecommunications. So swift is product development, potential buyers are tempted to put off a decision while awaiting the miracle development which salesmen promise is just round the corner.

Experts warn that continually waiting for the new blockbuster could mean never taking a decision. It's critical, they say, to look at available products and make an informed choice on the basis of cost, needs and possible expansion. So what are the basics? What are the innovations?

Telecommunications networks are composed of three basic types of equipment:

— Terminal equipment, for example a telephone set or facsimile machine, normally located on the customer's premises.

— Transmission equipment, for example coaxial cable, microwave radio or communications satellites; they carry the signal between terminal stations and switching centres.

Switching equipment, located primarily in central offices, links the terminals of the network, connecting them as required.

In installing a telephone or network system, a company must first decide how to transmit information — voice, video or data, or a combination. The basic transmission media are the common telephone wire, coaxial cable, optic fibre, microwave and satellite. The telephone line, known as twisted pair cable, is simplest and cheapest, but limited in speed and volume and susceptible to interference.

"Coax" transmits on Baseband (voice or data) and broadband (voice and video), is much faster than twisted pair and less vulnerable to noise. Optic fibres are half the size of coaxial cables, can carry 1,000 times more information and are immune to interference. For long-range transmission they are often more cost-effective than satellites. Microwave signals can reach about 16 km, but need a direct line of sight, dish to dish, and can be affected by rain or fog. They can send voice and data signals where cables cannot easily reach.

Satellite systems can transmit any kind of voice, video or data signal, little affected by weather since they use outer space.

It is a quarter-century since touch-tone service — telephones with push buttons instead of rotary dials — was introduced in the United States. Many countries have yet to see the system

but the more sophisticated have moved on to electronic, computer and cellular phones. Like computers, electronic telephones are run on special microprocessors and offer such facilities as speed dialling, conference calls and do-not-disturb buttons. Computer phones are combined with a terminal, making life easier for stockbrokers who use both simultaneously. Cellular or mobile phones can be costly but are popular with doctors, journalists, salesmen and other travellers.

Telephone networks or packages for rationalizing and handling office calls can include a daily printout of calls, least-cost routing and voice mail. Most common are the key system (used in offices of 40 or fewer 'phones' requiring a central operator, private branch exchange (PBX) offering outside callers direct access to an internal set, and Centrex, operated offsite. Much interest has been directed recently at LANs — Local Area Networks — in which high-speed cables link computers, terminals, printers and other hardware within an office or factory.

Such a direct hook-up permits a worker, without leaving his desk, to transfer documents from his personal computer to another, to tap into a corporate data base for a wider range of information and to hard-copy facts by means of a printer in the next room. Disadvantages exist — some LANs cannot be easily expanded, some quit working if one station breaks down, and most require long training.

Assessing quality of higher institutions

By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

A DISCUSSION via a world net programme on education and related topics has taken place at the American Centre. Dr Victor Billeh, Dean of Graduate Studies at Yarmouk University, and Mrs Janin Tell, Director of AMIDEAST office in Amman, formed the Jordanian panel.

Other Arab countries which participated in the programme were Kuwait and Bahrain. From the US, Dr Barbara Uehling, Chancellor designate University of California, Santa Barbara and member of Board of Directors of the Council on Post-Secondary accreditation, discussed issues of concern regarding the accreditation of American universities, the assessment of the quality of education, and the problems of foreign students — particularly from the Middle East region — when they first arrive in the US.

Each year, 63,000 Middle Eastern students come to the US to further their education. Accreditation of universities, and the comparative quality of education are

two of the criteria that students most evaluate when choosing an institution.

Replying to questions posed from Amman, Kuwait and Manama, Dr Uehling explained that it is very confusing, even for Americans, to choose from among 3,300 universities and colleges that exist in the US, but the most important thing for a student is to look for an accredited university.

Accreditation, she said, is a process that has evolved through the years in the US to ensure the quality of the institution delivering services. Accreditation grew out of a need to recognize programmes for consumer protection. Accredited institutions are listed in books available at the US Information Agency (USIA) which are issued and updated once a year. It is the best guide to rate the quality of accredited institutions.

Dr Uehling said that the sharing of educational experiences with people from other countries is important to people in the US. "Many of us believe in supporting international education, which means not only having students from

other countries, but also developing the appropriate curricula for our students which will enable them appreciate the language, the culture, the outlooks and the values of other countries."

On problems that international students face when they proceed to study in US universities, Dr Uehling said that many universities establish programmes to help students in that regard, with good counselling and foreign advisors to help them make good choices about places to live, courses to select and the curriculum in which to major.

A list of factors to be taken into consideration when rating institutions of higher education in the US by field of study includes fiscal responsibility and solidarity of the institution; there should be sound advising for students, and excellent facilities. There is also the question where graduates go after they graduate, and in fact, how many students graduate from an institution.

Dr Uehling stated that there are some institutions that fulfill a special need and will prepare students to do some kind of work, but, she added, it doesn't mean that non-accredited institutions are all bad. She suggested that if



Jordanian students looking ahead for further studies

a country lacks information, it is best to use accreditation as an index.

In some fields of specialization, foreign students face problems of being accepted in US institutions because some areas are very competitive with many students are seeking places in those universities. She added that there are cycles in professions in America

and at times, there is so much demand in a particular field that makes it highly competitive.

Dr Uehling said that she believed the future "is one in which we ought to talk and converse carefully the ways in which it can be supportive of one another and share understandings" with other countries. She hoped there would be a continuation to promote educational exchanges.

Selling tourism through potential incentives

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

A STEAM train excursion to the middle of the desert; a breakfast at the crack of dawn in Qalaa Al-Rabad; a walk in the marvels of the desert castles; a barbecue at the Dead Sea and a luncheon in the magnificent Rose City of Petra: All comprise the trip in history promised to visitors of Jordan.

The suggested itinerary is part of a tourism promotion programme that has just been initiated by the Amman Marriott Hotel in co-operation with Air France, British Airways and International Traders, designed to put Jordan on the map of the world's incentive travel market.

The programme also aims at making the Kingdom an attractive and feasible conference centre in the region and promoting Jordan's unique character and history by shedding light on its rich touristic resources.

For this purpose, executives from British Airways, Marriott Hotel and International Traders visited the United Kingdom last April in an intensive sales blitz on incentive houses.

Mr Munir Nassar who took part in the visit says "the response in the UK has been surprisingly good" commenting that during his 24 years in the tourist business with International Traders, centering around selling Jordan abroad, he has never been greeted with such positive responses.

"We hope to sell the idea to local companies as well in the future," added Mr Nassar who is one of the initiators of the programme.

Incentive Travel is one of the fastest growing parts of the travel market and is designed to cater for the needs of those businesses who like to show appreciation to their hard working staff in a different way, explains Mr Terry Daly, British Airways Sales Manager for Jordan and Egypt.

"British Airways is pleased to be part of such an excellent, high quality incentive programme,



Tranquil flowing streams await tourists

says Mr Daly, and is organizing facilities for sales blitz in the UK and will be flying out an educational group to Jordan in the near future to show them what the country has to offer.

Mr Sameer Dakkak, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Amman Marriott Hotel adds that the hotel has already made reservations for about 150 people coming to Jordan in 1988 during the spring-summer season. "Through creative programmes and advanced itineraries, we can help revitalize the tourist industry in Jordan and encourage a specific clientele to visit the country," emphasizes Mr Dakkak, carrying out the Marriott's belief that Jordan can stand to be a different incentive destination.

Amman Marriott General Manager Hallel Aguilier, together with Munir Nassar, Sameer Dakkak and Gilbert Muller, Air France Area Manager left Amman Sunday to visit French incentive houses and are planning a similar trip in co-operation with Lufthansa later this summer to promote Jordan in Germany.

The programme includes specially designed pamphlets and other publications that specify what Jordan has to offer in terms of attractions and services that cater to the needs of the market. The programme is aiming to attract also a 12 minute video tape which has been prepared including different shots of Jordan and the suggested itinerary to be played in the potential incentive houses in Europe.

STAR FEATURES

Where sheep, and goats, may safely graze



JCO members at work

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

IN SPRING this year, members of the Jordan Co-operative Organization (JCO) Ma'in co-operative were grazing their animals on 2,100 hectares of rangeland they had replanted over the previous three years. They paid 20 fils per animal per day for the grazing, and the money went back to the co-operative to fund further activities on their behalf.

In the area adjacent to their improved range, forestry department workers were continuing with their replanting of another ten thousand hectares of rangeland which will also, in time, be available for grazing.

Their activities are typical of the rangeland improvement work which has been underway since 1980 with support from the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (WFP) under the Rangeland and Forage Development project.

The project is now in its third phase. Under the first phase which began in November 1980, 700 hectares were planted with fodder shrubs, 2,249 ha. were planted with green fodder and 9,435 head of lambs were fattened.

In the second phase, which began in October 1983, 5,472 hectares were planted with fodder shrubs, 5,652 ha. with green fodder and 14,497 head of lambs were fattened. Altogether the WFP provided 4,891,500 worth of food commodities as support for workers in the projects.

The third phase of the project, which is now called "Development of Rangeland and Meat Production," began in October 1988 and during its five years, the WFP will provide \$3,840,000 worth of food commodities. The new phase has five components including the development of 3,000 ha. by the JCO and of 10,660 ha. by the Forestry and Soil Conservation Department and the development of 540 ha. within the Zarqa River Basin Project by the Ministry of Agriculture, the construction of 40 cis-

terns by the JCO and the fattening of 12,000 head of lambs. Work will be carried out on a number of sites throughout Jordan.

The work of range improvement is complex, involving as it does a web of technical and socio-economic elements which have rarely been studied systematically even in countries where pastoralism has traditionally been a major element in the economy.

If the workings of traditional pastoral activity are little understood, the problems of pastoralism in a situation of rapid economic and social change are even harder to deal with.

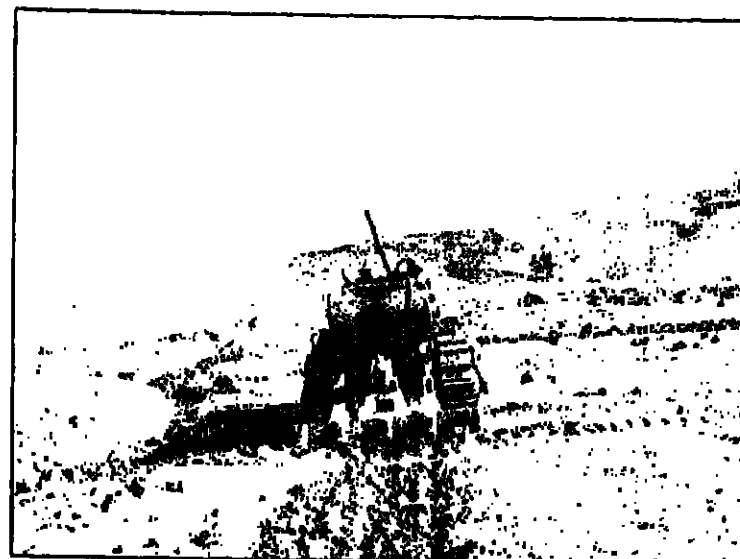
Studies have suggested that Jordan's rangelands can carry around one and a half million animals, roughly the number in the country now, but Mahmoud Abu Setta, Head of the Range Division of the Department of Forestry and Soil Conservation says that realistically, under present conditions it should have half that number, but with proper range development it could carry as many as three million.

The studies tend to assume that livestock will be distributed fairly evenly throughout the total rangeland area of the country though any one of a number of factors can upset the balance. Poor rainfall in one area of the country can force the pastoralist to move his stock elsewhere and although modern transport makes this quite easy, it puts heavy pressure on the better grazing areas.

Political events can have a dramatic effect. In 1987 many Palestinian bedouins were forced across the Jordan river and their animals have now been added to the numbers in Jordan.

The growing population in Jordan has increased the demand for agricultural products, pushed up prices and encouraged the ploughing of marginal land for grain growing, thus reducing the area available for grazing and putting extra pressure on the grazed land.

Changes can also reduce the number of animals and provide al-



Soil preparation for planting

ternatives to grazing. Many of Jordan's bedouins are choosing to live closer to towns and villages for the sake of services such as schools and medical care that are provided. But since their children are at school and as bedouin women are increasingly choosing to spend more time caring for their children, the labour is no longer available for the maintenance of large flocks of animals. Many bedouins are also taking advantage of the government provision of subsidized feed and no longer move their animals in search of grazing.

The technical specialists at the JCO and the Forestry department are thus working within a complex and often-changing situation. The one constant fact they have to face is that most of Jordan's rangeland has been severely overgrazed and each organization is now pursuing its own approach to that problem.

The Department of Forestry follows the practice of fencing off reserve areas and hiring workers to do the planting work. The department provides their wages while the WFP provides each worker with five individual food rations for each work day performed. They are planting three types of atreplex each with its own particular advantage — the local variety is self-generating, the Australian is not self-regenerating but is more palatable and the American is palatable and grows well in the driest areas. Acacia is also planted. Mr Abu Setta believes that with correct planting the carrying capacity of land receiving between 100 and 200 mm of rain per year could be raised by a factor of five and that of areas receiving less than 100 mm by one and a half times.

The department will also be planting prosopis trees in areas where rainfall is below 200mm per year. Some varieties of the tree, which is drought-resistant and good for both human consumption and animal fodder, were planted in the Wadi Zilzab area around fifteen years ago but there has been no follow up on their value and the department will plant a number of varieties to find the most suitable.

The prosopis, like all the plants in the project, will be grown at the Ministry of Agriculture's 12 nurseries throughout Jordan. If one location is shown to be particularly favourable the prosopis cultivation may be concentrated there as has happened with atreplex seedling production at the Dulali nursery.

The Department of Forestry work in the rangelands has proved

to be very effective in terms of the hectares planted per food ration but it now has to find the most effective way to use the range it has developed.

To date, three areas at Subha and Sunna near Mafraq and at

Fujell near Shobak have been leased to the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Husbandry. WFP deputy representative in Jordan Kubilay Easnel says the WFP is now keen to see more of the improved land put back into use after its three year or more period of planting and protection from grazing. He says this both for the socio-economic benefit it will bring to pastoralists and because, from a technical point of view, sensible grazing actually contributes to the well-being of the rangeland. The most practical solution seems likely to be the handing over of the land to the JCO which could then organize co-operative use among traditional land users.

Work on the areas already under JCO management is carried out by co-operative members who do not receive wages but take a regular WFP food ration of five individual rations for each work day performed. The land is not fenced but co-operative members guard it and after the three year replanting period members are able to graze it under controlled conditions that set the correct time of year and number of days. The latest phase

Continued on page 8

A common language for a common problem

THERE ARE many arguments over what the Arab states really do have in common, but one feature they undoubtedly share is the increasing degradation of their rangelands with its attendant problems of the marginalization of their pastoral communities and the threat of desert encroachment on their productive land.

With this in mind, six Arab states, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, in co-operation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) established the Regional Rangelands Management Project in February 1988.

Arab governments have been attempting to deal with the problems of their rangelands but according to project co-ordinator John Hall their efforts have mainly been directed at creating new resources rather than making the most of the existing ones. He says the new project has the aim of "evaluating past experience so that both the successes and failures can be used to define the technical, economic and human elements of a truly effective rangeland strategy."

Mr Edouard Le Floch, a consultant with the project, visited Amman recently and in an interview with The Star explained what this means in practical terms.

From the start, he says, it was clear that although the six countries have similar physical conditions and technical and socio-economic problems, when they come to discuss them they each speak a different language and this makes the effective sharing of experiences very difficult.

First priority, then, was given to the preparation of three methodological ref-

erence guides, one on phytoecological studies, the others for production systems and socio-economic aspects. Locally recruited teams will then use these guides when carrying out base-line studies in specially designated pilot study areas in each of the countries.

Mr Le Floch explained that activities in each pilot area will include 1) the evaluation of its physical resources including vegetation, soil, water and animals. 2) The evaluation of the needs of the people and of how they want to live. 3) A consideration of possible land use which can include for example grazing, cropping and supply of medicinal plants. 4) The introduction of possible development scenarios in keeping with the long term possibilities of the areas in question.

Mr Le Floch says there is ample evidence that many of the Middle East's marginal areas were once highly productive. Yemen has evidence of extensive water and soil harvesting activity while areas of Libya with only 25mm of rain per year were productive in Roman times and only declined when their populations lost confidence in Roman power and left the region. He believes the present decline in the rangeland area can be halted and they can again be used productively.

A September meeting in Tunisia will give participants a chance to discuss the national findings to date. Tunisia itself already has a long experience in rangeland improvement work and already has, for example phytoecological maps for the entire country, something Mr Le Floch hopes to see prepared for all other participating countries.

PAD

A writer for the people



Al-Tayeb Saleh: "Expressing complicated ideas simply"

By Ayman Al-Safadi
Star Staff Writer

BECAUSE OF its formalistic, thematic, and stylistic maturity, the Sudanese novelist Al-Tayeb Saleh likes the 19th century English novel the most, and because of the ripeness of his works, and the role they play in putting the Arabic novel in its right course, he enjoys outstanding fame, and occupies so high a place among men of letters in and out the Arab world.

He, as well as his works, are often described as showing simplicity, and intrinsic truth.

"I try to express complicated ideas simply," said the aptly named Al-Tayeb Saleh. His novel 'Season of Migration to the North' deals with very sophisticated themes; it deals with colonialism, the conflict between civilizations, and it also goes into psychology. Yet, not only politicians or psychiatrists can grasp its meaning. The novel is a stimulator for the ordinary reader's mind and emotions.

As for education, Mr Saleh said he keeps up with cultural and intellectual changes inside and outside the Arab world. Another factor contributing to his education is that he "had an interesting childhood."

He was born in a culturally rich area of the Sudan where there were various influences of different cultures. The northern part of Sudan is an extension of the bedouin country-side.

Even though he does not live in the north of Sudan for the time being, Saleh, in all his works, chooses his settings from there, and his characters are the inhabitants of that area. It is not vital, he says, for a writer to be physically in a place in order to write about it. "I have the essential knowledge of the Sudan," he remarked.

"My characters are capable of expressing all ideas," Mr Saleh maintains. He said that it is an easy task for the writer to draw sophisticated characters and make them say sophisticated things. The greatest challenge facing him, however, is to discuss deep issues through the mouths of simple people.

"I am very interested in this challenge," he said.

The conflict between the mind and emotions of the Westerner initiated educated Arab is almost a motif of Saleh's who has his first university degree in the Sudan, and his M.A. in Britain. He said that this question relates to the Arab identity, and our attempts to become modernized.

"The conflict between our culture and the West is not resolved yet," Saleh said. He explained that there have been two approaches to this issue; some of us have advocated the notion of complete conversion to westernism, while others wanted to go back to the roots, and rejected all things labelled western.

"Both approaches have not worked out so far," therefore confusion prevails and ambiguity of culture originates.

"But as writers live on ambiguity," says Saleh, the era is very attractive to them as the issues they have to deal with are crucial.

The state of confusion might not be as bad as it looks. Saleh maintains that confusion means that the nation is alive and struggling. Besides, Arabs are not unique in that respect, he says.

The whole world accordingly is under the effects of a mass universal culture. "The Europeans are as much confused," said Saleh. "They want to draw upon the main fountain of being." The Americans, furthermore, remarks Saleh, claim to have a culture of their own. However, deep down they know that what they have is a temporary predominance, mainly that of mass media.

"Even the Chinese, and despite their efforts to counter and keep away influences from out their culture, are in the same boat with other peoples," Saleh said. He added that consolation lies in the fact that all nations are in the same boat.

"A writer should have a principle, and I hope mine shows in my works," Saleh said. He added that he, like all artists, is in sympathy with those who "have a hard deal in life."

He expressed his belief that art is a moral force aiming at improving human conditions and not merely for entertainment.

The attempts of literature to unveil the meaning of life, says Mr Saleh, is a big undertaking. "I do not deliberately set out to decipher the puzzles of life," he said. "I look at life from many angles and attempt to reconstruct the experience, and give it form and cohesion." The writer said that he believes in the tolerance of other people's point of views, and the right to work out their own way of salvation.

He added that he wanted to spread a feeling of tolerance as it is inevitable that something emerges in a climate of give-and-take.

"I am not a propagandist," says Mr Saleh. "Great devastation has been caused by people who believe in a blue print. Problems should be tackled at ease and from different perspectives, he added. He pointed out that destruction caused by rigid beliefs is seen everywhere. Lebanon is one example, Iraq and Iran is another.

Al-Tayeb Saleh is influenced by Western writers in the sense of being reminded of his culture, and not in that of having them as imitators. He said that he is reminded of Al-Mutanabbi, an old and well-known Arab poet, when he reads Shakespeare.

"A writer should know the society and people about whom he writes. Yet he does not have to absorb all political charges around him," Mr Saleh said. The artist is he who has "the insight to cut across the details to the essential."

Al-Tayeb Saleh now works as a representative of UNESCO in the Arab Gulf. He is presently in Jordan to take part in UNESCO's conference of undersecretaries of ministries of education in the Arab world.



Reem Yasin's
Cinema Corner

A season for graduation

IN KEEPING with the month of June when graduation parties are the order of the day, the American Centre in Amman is presenting "The Graduate" this week, one of the most loved and best rated comedy classics that Hollywood produced. The film, however, although it centres mainly on the problems of the young generation is strictly an adult movie and not meant for less than mature viewers.

"The Graduate" is Dustin Hoffman (as Benjamin Braddock) in his first major role on the screen, a brilliant performance that earned him an Oscar nomination and won him the 1967 Golden Globe Award for "Most Promising Newcomer" thus establishing him as one of the most talented actors of the Sixties generation.

The character of Benjamin Braddock, a twenty-one year old college graduate, an award-winning scholar who is the pride of his affluent parents and to whom he appears to be a model son, is a lonely, inert and melancholic young man who feels totally isolated from his environment. He is an embodiment of the alienation of youth in the Sixties generation (or any other generation for that matter). Thus the film was a tallman for its time and was therefore an immediate success on its first release, hitting both the box-office and the critical columns.

Benjamin's feeling of isolation is brilliantly conveyed starting from the opening scene at the airport where his blank face appears over the credits staring into nowhere and contemplating nothing. At home, he is totally at sea amid his surroundings — almost literally as he floats aimlessly ("just drifting", he terms it) alone in his pool like a shipwrecked sailor.

During the course of the film Benjamin emerges from his lethargy spurred on by an affair with the wife of his father's best friend, Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft). He then falls in love with the daughter of his 'femme fatale' Elaine (another award winning role by Katherine Ross) and finally abducts her from the altar as she is getting married to someone else. The graduate has finally found a purpose and a sense of destination, though as he rides off on a bus with Elaine, it is ironically not at all clear where they are heading or what that destination might be.

The competent and sensitive director of Mike Nichols won him the 1967 Oscar for Best Director as well as the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture Director. The film itself won the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture and Anne Bancroft won the Best Actress award.

With its outstanding musical score (sung by Simon and Garfunkel) "The Graduate" is undoubtedly worthy of all its glowing honours.

N.B. Check the Calender (P.18) for screening time of 'The Graduate'.

Recent film releases

The Believers (R) Martin Sheen — Pretentious occult thriller spiced up with grisly sacrificial killings (Fair)

Beverly Hills Cop II (R) Eddie Murphy — Cool Detroit cop not so hot this time out (Fair)

The Chipmunk Adventure (G) Chipmunks — enter around-the-world balloon race, pleasant kiddie animated feature (Good)

Creepshow 2 (R) George Kennedy — A trilogy of Stephen King horror stories (Fair)

Gardens of Stone (R) James Caan — Warm and sober drama of home-front soldiers during Vietnam era (Good)

Harry And The Hendersons (PG) John Lithgow — Family briefly adopts "bigfoot" creature, sentimental schmaltz (Fair)

Lethal Weapon (R) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover — Cop buddy actioner is compromised by overwhelming violence (Fair)

Million Dollar Mystery (PG) Tom Bosley — Corny comedy adventure about the frantic search for US dollars four million stash (Fair)

Platoon (R) Tom Berenger — Powerful, vivid account of Vietnam war, horror and inner conflicts expertly detailed (Great)

Predator (R) Arnold Schwarzenegger — Big Arnie goes hand-to-hand with alien creature in the jungle, exciting enough (Good)

Raising Arizona (PG-13) Nicolas Cage — Spoof of American family can't raise enough laughs (Fair)

River's Edge (R) Criespin Glover — Unsettling story of teen boy who murders girl and the sexual reaction that follows (Good)

The Secret Of My Success (PG-13) Michael J Fox — Mail room worker gets top corporate slot, appealing yuppie comedy (Good)

The Witches Of Eastwick (R) Jack Nicholson — Devil seduces three bored women, Jack puts on a hell of show (Good)

Arab education grapples with local needs

By Christian Doumit

THE SPECTACULAR increase in the number of universities in the Middle East brought with it a corresponding expansion in the pool of locally produced graduates to which should be added a plethora of those who have undertaken their education abroad.

During the early phases, faculty staff were often foreign and unused to the formulation of curricula. It was often a time when academic staff did not think too deeply about the suitability of text book choices, but instead believed that what is good for America is good for us, oblivious that cultural differences can invalidate much of a text especially in the social sciences and the humanities. As a result, students were saddled with books which often hindered those grappling for an understanding of their new disciplines. This approach might have worked well for the intellectual elite, but as the base of education widened and began to include students of varying abilities, motivations, backgrounds, and aspirations the flaws in the system became all too apparent.

With the emergence of national universities, increased financial resources, and the various governmental emphases on national identity, many countries are now using locally produced materials, at least in the public sector.

Whereas, foreign books are increasingly being used in independent private schools, their selection and adoption is made following rigorous evaluation to ensure they meet national syllabi as prescribed by education ministries.

Locally produced books, though not approaching the quality of those imported from France, Britain and the United States, have the advantage of increased relevance by emphasizing local phenomena and specific items of interest. They can also be adapted to fit the language and special cultural needs of the population.

It should be remembered that the Arab cultural background does not support the thinking process which is developed in foreign books, particularly the more empirical American texts. Such programmes give more chance of understanding and flexibility in developing the mental processes of American children than others. The American family is more liberal and open-minded than the Arab family. Independent relationships are formed much more easily and American children become more individualistic, independent, decisive and purposeful in action.

A recent survey among teachers has revealed that difficulties arise from the adoption of series based on methodologies that require specific training of teachers

or that demand specific facilities. When such programmes are taught in a traditional way, in a traditional environment, not only is the purpose self-defeating but the productivity of teachers and students is seriously jeopardized.

Another category of problems result from the differences in contents. If such differences are eligible at the elementary stage, they become a real problem at upper levels. Differences can be found in the teaching of geometry where some programmes adopt the vectorial versus the Euclidean approach. Modern algebra is another area where content differences abound but their impact is less important.

An area which deserves special mention is that of world history and social studies. Misconceptions about the Arabs, their culture, history, and Islam abound due to inaccurate, misleading, and distorted statements. Many texts use the terms 'Arab' and 'Muslim' interchangeably and portray the Arabs as primitive, backward, nomadic, and desert dwelling. The Arab world is often depicted as a desert and oil, lacking modernization and united in its hatred of Israel. Even American schools abroad catering primarily to American students are reluctant to use such texts.

In those years following the oil boom, the Middle East had be-

come the 'New World' awash with ample spending power. Soon enough, college campuses and schools were besieged by armies of representatives among them publishers' agents who sold books indiscriminately and reaped the benefits of the bonanza. This was also a time when newly built libraries — with almost unlimited budgets — would order 'five of each' regardless of suitability. The effects of this policy can be seen on library and bookstore shelves today. Some books have hardly been opened and one or two copies would have been ample for reference needs.

Academic staff who used to welcome publishers' representatives in the early years are now irritated by what they see as irrelevant visits especially when salesmen tell teachers what "good schools" are using their books. Even booksellers have complained of the complications caused by commissioned reps in their dealings with publishers.

Says a leading bookseller: "They come and waste our time and ask to see the adoption list to write their reports to their head office." On the other hand, a seasoned traveller said that on a recent trip, he was unable to see certain academic officials but was asked to leave his catalogues with the secretary.

When dealing with the Middle East, publishers should remember

this is not a backwater. No longer does the presence of suave Americans and British overseas. Like many countries earlier, the Arab world is going through very complex and interesting developments as it gradually moves out of the orbit of western domination and into some form of independence. Moreover, it should be noted that the increasing popularity of fundamentalism within both Christian and Muslim communities may become an area of interest.

In conclusion, although it would be hazardous to offer generalizations on the impact of multinational publishing firms on the educational systems of the Middle East, it is widely recognized that reputable firms play a positive role in the transfer of technology to these countries.

However, there is a pressing need for closer interaction and integration through joint publishing ventures between multinational firms and their respective markets to ensure that foreign textbooks and future publishing trends make an effective contribution in meeting these countries' overall national goals without perturbing the logical process of development.

Reprinted from the HCJ Communications Report. Published in Cyprus, Nicosia, P.O. Box 4127, the Report deals with educational trends in the Middle East.

On Saturday 13 June, Amman drank toasts to His Majesty King Hussein and to Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her official birthday celebrated at the British Embassy. Ambassador and Mrs John Coles and Colonel David Whitten received their many guests, with the help of Laury Evans, Nick Archer, David Whitbread, Steve Collier, Hiyam Fakouri and other embassy staff, while the guests enjoyed themselves as usual. Present were Tayseer and Najwa Touqan,

General Tayseer Za'rour, Austrian Ambassador Arnold Moebius and wife Helene, General Ihsan Shurdhom and wife Margaret, Pat Dajani, Tunisian Ambassador Said bin Mustafa,

Khaled Rifa'i, Australian Ambassador Terry Goggin, UNTSO's Colonel Harald Bauer, Dr Jamal Al-Sha'er and wife Mary, Ali and Jamana Zubi, Omani Ambassador Khamis bin Al-Battashi, US Embassy's Patrick Theriot, Mickey and Pam Balty, who returned to the States on Tuesday and will be missed by all their friends, Italian Ambassador and Mrs Luigi Amaduzzi, Anglican Bishop Ella Khoury, Sudanese Ambassador Mahgoub Redwan, Soviet Ambassador and Mrs Alexander Zintchuk, United Arab Emirates Ambassador Abdallah Al-Shurafa, Raymond and Mimi Deeb, Yugoslav Ambassador and Mrs Todor Bojadzievski, Hungarian Charge D'Affaires and Mrs Laszlo Nemere, Greek First Secretary and Mrs Michael Koukakis, Spanish Ambassador and Mrs Emilio Menendes del Valle, Dr Na'el Aljouni, Mohammed and Margaret Abu Jamous, Violent and Sami Habib, David and Gretchen Welch, French Ambassador and Mrs Patrick Leclercq, German Ambassador Herwig Bartels, Brigadier and Mrs Abdul-Hafez Miri, Algerian Ambassador Mohammed Bergham, European Community Delegate Romano Lantini, Egyptian Ambassador and Mrs Ihab Wahba and so many others. Many happy returns to Queen Elizabeth.



Jany Bourdais of the French Cultural Centre

The farewell party of Jany Bourdais at the French Cultural Centre last Friday was attended by Information Minister Mohammad Al-Khatib, French Ambassador and Mrs Patrick Leclercq, E.E.C. delegates Romano Lantini, British Council Director David Latta, Barbara Good from the American Centre, Monsignor Raouf Najjar and Nazareth School Head Mistress Soeur Hilco.

The reception which included cocktails, dancing, and music by 'The Survivors', was also joined by members of the French Embassy, the French Cultural Centre staff and a number of friends and acquaintances.

Jany Bourdais leaves Amman next week to assume his duties in Syria after serving four years as director of the French Cultural Centre during which he has maintained a highly active centre attracting large numbers of French and Jordanians to its various cultural activities.

Bourdais' art is still on exhibition at the Architectural Gallery in Riyadh Centre.

It was wonderful for friends of David Malone to see him, even

for just a couple of hours, thanks to Michael and Zella Chesson who gave a wonderful party for him last Thursday.

Present were Canadian Ambassador Gary Harman and Margaret, French Ambassador Patrick Leclercq and Marie Alice, Hanna and Tanla Nasser, Ellen Khoury, Yamin Shoufani, Henri and Katherine D'Aragon, Canadian Arabist Paul Noble, Michael and Evelyn Koukakis, Suha Eid, Rick Davis and Debra Amos, Nuha Beshon, John Rice, Stanley Reid, also visiting, David and Gretchen Welch, another visiting journalist, John Kifer, Patrick Theriot, David and Caroline Whitbread, Sami Rowland Jones, Leila Deeb, Jean-Francois Dobelle, Gilberto Ferreira and many other friends who miss David and hope he can come back again soon.

UNDP's Emmanuel and Jennifer De Casteris said goodbye to Amman, and the many friends they made during their short stay here. These included USAID's Mr and Mrs Lewis Reade, visiting United Nations filmmaker Simone de baigno, Mary and Yaqoub Joury, new UNDP Deputy Representative Toufic Bin Ammers and other friends.

The Jerusalem Star heard regretful whispers about the upcoming departure of two more delightful friends, Spanish Ambassador Emilio Menendez del Valle and lovely wife Maria, who were given their first farewell party by Greek Counselor Michael Koukakis and wife Evelyn, whose delicious cooking contributed greatly to the lovely evening, punctuated by hilarious jokes.

Present were Randa Habib and husband Adnan Gharalbeh, Jeannette and Guillermo Rishchynski from the Canadian Embassy, Lella Deeb, Gretchen and David Welch from the American Embassy, Othman Nashedhbi without wife Mary, laid up with a broken leg, but soon to have her cast off. Although everyone will miss Emilio and Maria, they were

assured of a good reception when they visit Rome at the end of summer. Good luck to you both and see you again soon.

Running four heats, each consisting of 15 laps on the zig-zag track, Hani Bisharat won the individual competition and the Royal Jordanian team won the team race of the First Royal Jordanian Kart championship.

The Kart race which took place at the Arabian Horse Club last Friday included teams from Dubai, the Royal Jordanian and the Arabian Horse Club. Participants

from Dubai included Chris Jordan, Dilon Kooyman, Paul Davis, Roger Poggaley, Guy P. and Kevin Moricy. The Arabian Horse Club team included Bishara Koser, Naser Bustami and Raed Karazon while the Royal Jordanian team included Hani Bisharat, Ali Hamman and Steve Jahshan.

Royal Jordanian provided the trophies which were presented to the winners in the afternoon.

Earlier in the day, taking part in the children's Kart race, was the youngest competitor, three year old Ibrahim Bisharat, following in the footsteps of his father.

SMOKING AND POPULATIONS



Although more cigarettes per capita are smoked in industrialised nations compared with the Third World, the steepest rise in smoking over the past decade has taken place in developing countries, outstripping growth of adult populations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

According to the World Health Organisation, the tobacco industry is "expanding unchecked" in most developing countries leading to increased danger of smoking-related diseases.

The table below shows the comparative percentage increases in smoking and adult populations between 1971-81.

	Adult population	Cigarette consumption
World	18.2	17.4
Europe	9.8	5.3
Other industrialised countries	12.9	13.6
Asia	21.8	28.5
Latin America	24.5	31.4
Africa	23.4	41.5

Grazing

Continued from page 7

of the project also calls for co-operative members to construct, on a self-help basis, cisterns to store rain water run-off to be used for watering seedlings and for drinking by the flocks. As a trial, 40 cisterns, each with an average capacity of 50 cubic metres will be constructed. In terms of the number of hectares planted per food ration, the JCO approach is not so effective but it has the advantage of involving the livestock rearers in the improvement of their own rangeland and the enjoyment of the benefits of that improvement and this should help to provide them with a long term commitment to its maintenance.

But the co-operatives also face certain limitations in their efforts. Mr Jamil Muhammad Ali the JCO's rangeland project officer explains that the first is the involvement with their work is purely voluntary. In the Ma'in area, for example, there are two categories of livestock rearers — farmers who own

their own land and combine agriculture with animals and nomadic pastoralists who keep sheep and goats and who do not farm. The 186 members in the Ma'in co-operative are mainly from the first category but even then make up only about half of the areas farming population. Mr Ali says that most bedouins are not interested in joining the co-operative and doing the range development work, first, because the work co-incides with their seasonal moves in search of grazing and, secondly, because they do not have the habit of that type of work. Those who do not join however, lose their traditional access to the improved grazing land and must graze their animals elsewhere.

The JCO hopes, however, that as more livestock rearers see the benefits of the range improvement work they will be willing to join co-operatives and the rate of improvement work and numbers benefiting from it will expand throughout Jordan.

Knesset members blast pope for audience with Waldheim

MEMBERS OF Knesset from all parties joined yesterday in condemning the Vatican's invitation to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, for a meeting with the pope tomorrow.

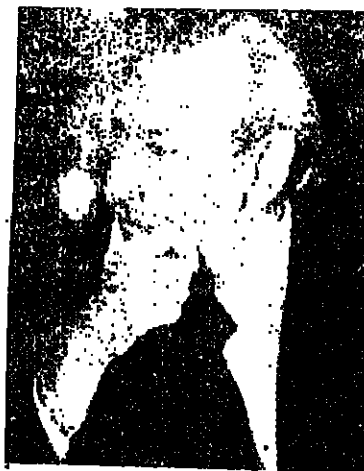
As for the government, beyond asking for an explanation from the Vatican, it has decided on a wait-and-see posture. Minister without Portfolio Ezer Weizman (standing in for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres) told the Knesset, in reply to six motions for the agenda on the subject.

At the suggestion of Alignment Knesset Member Shevah Weiss, the Knesset decided to send the full protocol of yesterday's session to the Vatican.

Weizman recalled that as defence minister at the time, he had met with Waldheim after the Litani Operation and had written of his impressions of the meeting. "I will not quote what I wrote," he said. "Suffice it to add that, without knowing what we now know, my feelings amply reflected the present state of our knowledge."

Weizman added that he hoped the remarks he was making in the name of the government would not be the end of the matter.

Unlike Weiss, Shulamit Aloni (Citizens Rights Movement), Shimon Ben-Shlomo (Shas), Gaila Cohen (Tehiya), Dov Shilansky (Li-



Kurt Waldheim

kud), and Avner Shaki (National Religious Party), Weizman had some qualified appreciation for the pope who, he said, had been trying to further the dialogue between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church. The pope, he said, also respected the memory of the Holocaust.

But for the Knesset members the Vatican's attitude to Jews and the Holocaust was proved by the short time that had elapsed between the papal visit to the Majdanek concentration camp and the announcement of the Waldheim visit.

There was a connection be-

tween the cross and the swastika, Cohen asserted. Waldheim was a Nazi, it was unanimously agreed.

In New York, the president of the American Jewish umbrella group responsible for Jewish-Natholic relations said that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has endorsed calls by American Jews for substantive talks with the pope over his decision to receive Waldheim.

Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, president of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), said he "welcomes" a statement issued late Monday by Archbishop John May of St. Louis, in which May said that in light of the negative reaction to the Waldheim visit in the Jewish community.

The Austrian government has reacted sharply to criticism by Israeli and Jewish groups of Waldheim's meeting with the pontiff.

On Monday, the Israeli charge d'affaires in Vienna, Gideon Yarden, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to be told that Austria "rejects" Israel's position on Waldheim's audience with the pope.

Foreign Minister Ales Mock has broadly hinted that Austria's ambassador to Israel, Otto Pleinert, may not be replaced when his posting ends at the end of the year.

From the Jerusalem Post



Hanna Senlora and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Fria watching Senlora's burnt car.

Gabon to re-establish diplomatic ties with Israel

Al Hamishmar newspaper last Monday quoted Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as saying that Gabon will be the next African country to re-establish diplomatic ties with Israel. He added that the decision to resume relations with Gabon was to be announced during his tour to Africa but the Gabonese officials demanded very huge financial and military Israeli aid, which Shamir considered as a blackmail. The paper said that the prime minister will present these demands to the Knesset for discussion.

Palestinians denounce setting fire to Senlora's car

Scores of Palestinian notables from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Tuesday strongly denounced the setting of fire to two cars belonging to Hanna Senlora, the editor-in-chief of Al Fajr Arabic paper published in Jerusalem, Israeli sources said. The same sources quoted Senlora who previously called on the Arabs to participate in the Jerusalem municipal elections, as saying that those who set his cars on fire will not escape the proper punishment and that he will never drop his initiative regarding the municipal elections.

US aid to Israel will not decrease

Haaretz newspaper quoted the US Under-Secretary of Defence John Whitehead as saying that US aid to Israel will not be reduced despite the problems and difficulties that the US budget currently undergoes.

He admitted that the annual regular \$3 billion aid to Israel has noticeably diminished due to the inflation and dollar devaluation in the world markets. However, the US administration will not be able at the moment to increase the volume of this aid, said Whitehead.

Drug abuse in Israel

Israeli Police Minister Haim Barlev stated that Israel suffers from a rapidly increasing drug abuse problem which annually costs the country a sum of nearly \$1.2 billion. The minister added that drug abuse in Israel is strongly connected with other types of crimes.

Two new military courts to be opened

Israel's radio said that the military authorities have decided to open two military courts in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to carry out quick trials of Arab citizens. One will be located in Nablus city and the other will be close to Ansar II prison in Gaza.

Commander of Israeli Air Force to retire

Commander of the Israeli Air Force, General Amos Lapidot will end his military service next December. Al Hamishmar newspaper reported. He will be replaced by General Avyahu Ben Noun who currently serves as the head of the planning division at the Israeli Army General Staff.

Number of settlers drop in the north

Thousands of Jewish settlers in Galilee have in the last five years abandoned their settlements and moved to other areas in Israel for economic and security reasons, Yodo't Ahronot paper, said.

This massive departure of settlers which exceeded the number of those who arrived in to settle at the northern area, has since 1982 caused a 3 per cent drop in the total number of inhabitants there.

French and Israeli intelligence heads discuss co-operation

Al Hamishmar newspaper said that the head of the French Intelligence Department has lately visited Israel and met with the head of the Israeli Mossad to discuss Israeli-French co-operation in security and intelligence affairs.

The paper added that the French head of intelligence department made similar visits to Syria and Algeria for the same purpose last year.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

Tourism, advanced bookings increase, officials report

By Tony Schueth
Star Staff Writer

IN 1987, Jordan has experienced an increase in tourism, and to maintain this trend, officials are devising a long-run strategy on tourism, Nasri Atallah, director general of tourism, said.

According to Atallah, tourism is up ten per cent and travel agents report high advance bookings for the year. He attributed the increase to a more politically calm region and a more stable Mediterranean basin.

Some have charged, and Atallah agrees, that Jordan's tourism potential remains virtually untapped. In an effort to exploit the Kingdom's tourism potential, a higher committee has been appointed to set long-run national priorities and strategies toward Jordan's second largest foreign exchange earner.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, held its first meeting Sunday. Committee members discussed means of marketing domestic tourism as well as strategies to attract foreign visitors to the Kingdom, Jordan's news agency Petra reported.

Atallah, a member of the committee, placed tourists in three categories — local, regional and international, maintaining each sector is important to Jordan because it renders the country hard currency.

Atallah said that local tourism might not bring in foreign currency, but it keeps the Kingdom's money within the country. "If you save a dollar, you earn a dollar," Atallah said.

International tourism, Atallah

said, is more fickle and can be influenced by regional and international political unrest because residents of many countries are misinformed about the Middle East.

"Should anything happen in Europe, it can hurt Jordan. We saw that a couple of years ago with terrorism in Rome," Atallah said. "After the incident, there were mass cancellations from the United States and other countries."

Therefore, tourism in Jordan, and subsequent income to the Kingdom, is unnervingly linked to politics, over which Jordan has little control. An area, however, not as easily influenced by international politics would be the regional tourists.

Middle Eastern Arabs, Atallah explains, are closer to Jordan and understand that if something goes wrong in Rome, it doesn't affect Jordan.

More specifically, the committee, discussed projects such as building hotels, tourists camps and tourist villages, and also modernizing tourist resthouses around the country, Petra reported.

Atallah said the ministry plans to market leisure tourism in the future.

"It has been proven that 17 per cent of tourism world-wide is cultural, while 83 per cent is leisure," Atallah said. Jordan has always marketed its tourism as cultural, but along with Egypt, is rethinking its strategy.

Atallah said Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba is a definite leisure tourist attraction. In fact, direct flights from European capitals are expected to resume next year after nearly a decade suspension, the London Financial Times re-

ported. However, Jordan retains no other developed attractions in this category. Leisure possibilities include the mountains of Ajloun where local and regional travellers can retreat to enjoy the cool weather. Another possibility would be a health spa along the Dead Sea or a tourist village in the cool mountains of Dibbin near Jerash.

Currently, the Nazzal family has leased 20 dunums of government land in the Dead Sea area to construct a health spa.

Atallah said the government's policy is to encourage the private sector to construct tourist attractions. The government then will provide the infrastructure including a well organized road system, hotels, and restaurants. The government also provides loans and long-term leases at reasonable rates, Atallah said. The Nazzal family is considering building another hotel at Petra and three new hotels in each of Irbid, Ajloun and Azraq.

In the cultural tourism area, Petra, the 2,000-year-old, rock-cut capital of the Nabatean Arab Kingdom and the Greco-Roman city of Jerash provide Jordan with world-class attractions. Petra, Atallah said, could be considered the 8th or 9th wonder of the world.

Current tourism is aimed primarily at these sites and as a stop-over for religious-minded tourists heading for Biblical sites on the West Bank.

"Tourism operators here are still from the traditional 'Holy Land' tourism frame-of-mind," Atallah said. "They didn't have to do much to sell that. They are still basing their salesmanship on tours to

Continued on page 13

PETRA supports business

By Ayman Al-Safadi
Star Staff Writer

EMPHASIZING THE importance of the private sector, the Private Enterprise Technical Resources Assistance project (PETRA) was established at the end of September, 1986. Nine months and many applications later, the organization has agreed to fund construction of three projects.

Utilizing PETRA funds, organizations will construct a fish farm in Southern Azraq, a rug-weaving business for the women of Jabal Ben Hamida and an urban planning project designed to promote business and restore historical sites in Salt.

The organization, established by the Ministry of Planning and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to help the private sector because of the important role it plays in increasing income and exports, and creating work opportunities for Jordanians. The private sector, Mr. Samir Sunalla PETRA director said, is essential to economic growth.

Jordanian private firms, non-profit organizations, business groups, or individual entrepreneurs in need of training, funds, or technical assistance can obtain help from PETRA. Mr. Sunalla said.

Mr. Sunalla said those eligible

for funds can visit, write or telephone the recently established PETRA office and fill out a brief questionnaire. The next step, he said, involves meeting with the PETRA staff who are specialized in finance, marketing, business operations, and engineering. The staff studies the ideas and needs of the applicants and works out a proposal to be submitted to the PETRA committee.

The PETRA committee then approves or disapproves requests for funding.

The committee, which held its first meeting in February 1987, is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Central Bank, Industrial Development Bank, Agricultural Credit Corporation, City and Villages Development Bank, USAID, Amman Chamber of Industry, and private sector.

Mr. Sunalla said PETRA has designed criteria against which applications are checked. Priority is given to small- and medium-size firms with projects that can create jobs for Jordanians, benefit more than one firm, utilize Jordan natural resources, discourage monopolies, raise production standards, and/or improve the way the Jordanian private sector does business. PETRA favours business expected to preserve or bring in

foreign exchange, Sunalla said.

He said funds may be used for feasibility studies, technical assistance, training programmes and/or seminars. If the applicant required assistance PETRA would refer the company to foreign consultancy houses and contact Jordanian and American experts in the fields of marketing, production and distribution.

Mr. Sunalla said the PETRA committee awards funding reaching maximum of 50 per cent of the estimated cost. Even though PETRA charges no interest on loans it does not require the beneficiaries to begin repaying them before a period of two years from receiving the loan. Yet to make sure the loan is spent on the project for which it was given, the agency monitors the execution of the project.

He said that because USAID is funding the project, it is preferable that awardees turn to the American market for raw materials and equipment, if they are not available in local markets.

He said he hoped PETRA would succeed in its plans, and called on Jordanians to make use of the opportunity.

"If our hope for success is achieved," he remarked, "PETRA might seek other financiers and expand its mandate."

• TENDER NO 1/87. Supply of pipes for the Water Authority. Tender documents are available at the authority for JD 50. Closing date: 7 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 18/87. Supply and laying of asphalt mixture at Yarmouk University Street. Tender documents are available at the University for JD 25. Closing date: 4 July 1987.

• TENDERS NO 37-38/87. Construction of school classrooms for Jerash district. Tender documents are available at Jerash Education Directorate. Closing date: 27 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 9/87. Supply of sheeted iron for the Royal Air Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate. Closing date: 30 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 79/87. Construction of a nursing college building in Zarqa. Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Directorate for JD 150. Closing date: 8 August 1987.

• TENDER NO 175/87. Supply of a mobile 25 crane tonnes for The Arab Potash Co. Tender documents are available at the company's offices in Shmashani for JD 15. Closing date: 22 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 176/87. Supply of a portable high pressure water cleaning unit for the Arab Potash Co. Tender documents are available at the company's offices for JD 10. Closing date: 25 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 177/87. Supply of fiberglass pipes and fitting for the Arab Potash Co. Tender documents are available at the company's offices for JD 50. Closing date: 29 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 178/87. Supply of chemical materials for the Arab Potash Co. Tender documents are available at the company's offices for JD 10. Closing date: 18 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 80/87. Construction of a building for handicapped in Jerash. Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Directorate for JD 75. Closing date: 8 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 6/87. Supply of metal furniture for the Royal Air Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate's purchasing committee. Closing date: 30 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 43/87. Supply of wooden file cabinets for The Royal Jordanian. Tender documents are available at the tenders committee offices in the Housing Bank Complex building for JD 1. Closing date: 29 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 46/87. Supply of plastic bags for the Royal Jordanian. Tender documents are available at the tenders committee offices for JD 1. Closing date: 29 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 611/87. Supply of minigama spare parts for the Science and Technology University. Tender documents are available at the university. Closing date: 5 July 1987.

• TENDER NO 54/87. Supply of laboratory sets and machines for the Royal Scientific Society. Tender documents are available at the society for JD 5. Closing date: 15 August 1987.

• TENDER NO 28/87. Supply of 10,000-20,000 tonnes of sugar for the Ministry of Supply. Tender documents are available at the ministry for JD 5. Closing date: 30 June 1987.

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Economic Adhocracy

By Jawad Anani



Are Hammer's predictions true?

ARNOLD HAMMER is a man who enjoys a degree of popularity that could be envied by the Ewings from the television programme "Dallas." He single-handedly built Occidental from a small office to a giant oil corporation. Yet, Mr Hammer is credited with wild forecasts which turned out to be true.

It is said that during a recent television interview, Mr Hammer predicted that the price of oil will reach the unthinkable price of \$100 per barrel. That is right, one hundred United States dollars.

The possibility that this could be true is mouth-watering to the Arab World. Yet, before we take this to heart, let us stop for a minute and reflect on the prospect.

This time Mr Hammer could be proved wrong. Yet oil prices may increase faster than some serious studies had predicted. OECD and OPEC said that by 1990 the world may require an increase of 4 million barrels of oil. By the year 2000, that demand could reach 10 million barrels per day. Such increases would substantiate \$5 to \$7 increase in the price of each barrel.

However, the rationalization of oil consumption may now begin to show fatigue. Moreover, alternative energy sources are not doing as well as had been hoped. Also, marginal oil wells outside OPEC countries are drying quickly.

Even when the quantity demanded shows a disciplined behaviour, the supply of oil and energy substitutes tends to drag. Thus, there might be room for believing oil prices will increase faster than had been forecast in 1983-84.

Yet, the recycling of newly earned petro-dollars may not be as strong as they had been between 1973-82. The world may not allow the redistribution effect to take its full swing. Are we in the Arab World prepared for the outcome? There are so many debts to be repaid, disputes to be resolved, all activities to be revived and a stern future to be faced, that we must ask this question.

The oil boom and its aftermath should teach us a lesson. The fruits reaped from a windfall occurrence can be sour and bitter unless well managed. Such good management is as badly needed in periods of boom as in periods of dwindling morale.

Now, what shall we say to Mr Hammer?

Water key to farming future

By Roderick Smith
Star UK Correspondent

SAUDI ARABIA'S fast-flowing plans for farming self-sufficiency are being dammed back by dwindling reserves of water.

The kingdom is the largest country in the world without lakes or rivers of note and non-renewable groundwater supplies are rapidly being depleted to help agriculture's "green revolution."

Agriculture used 84 per cent of the 8,830 million cubic metres of water consumed in the kingdom in 1984/85, according to official figures. More than 70 per cent of the water was taken from nonrenewable sources. The rest was rainwater, desalinated water and recycled waste water.

Official estimates put groundwater supplies at 500,000 million cubic metres but much is difficult to figure. Some reserves are more than 1,500 metres below ground. Such reserves, if drilled down to, surface at high pressure at temperatures of up to 75 degrees centigrade. They also require expensive cooling and treatment to remove minerals and impurities before use.

Saudi Arabia has achieved a great deal of success in a country where the annual average rainfall is 100 millimetres, and two-thirds

of the land mass is so arid it can support only small, nomadic communities. The 1986/87 wheat harvest yielded 2.3 million tonnes, a 15-fold rise on 1977/78. Hefty government subsidies have encouraged farmers to opt for growing wheat on about 25 per cent of the kingdom's estimated 2.3 million hectares of cropland.

The government is now turning its attention to barley. Imports cost an estimated \$678 million in 1988. Saudi Arabia also pays for import of coarse grains for its animal feed industries. The London-based International Wheat Council says the kingdom is likely to need more coarse grains in 1987/88.

World trade in barley, however, may dip just below last year's record 20.1 million tonnes even if demand in Saudi Arabia increases further.

Saudi Arabia, the sixth largest seller of wheat in 1988/87 with estimated shipments of 1.7 million tonnes, may see sales decline slightly with a smaller production, the council predicts.

The kingdom is hoping that barley growing will repeat the success achieved in fresh fruit production in the 1980-85 development plan. Incentives included free seed and nursery stock and half-price fertilizers. Excluding melons and dates, fruit production

jumped by an average of 107 per cent a year to 131,000 tonnes in the five-year period. Local farmers can keep pace with domestic demand for dates, melons and tomatoes officials estimate. The 1986 watermelon crop, at 875,000 tonnes, was a sixfold jump in production.

Saudi Arabia's cows are among the most productive in the world. They are fed on concentrates and the resultant high yields mean relatively low costs. A litre of milk costs about \$1 to produce and sells in the shops for SR 5 (\$1.32) as fixed by the government.

However powdered milk, imported mainly from the European community which offers a 50 per cent discount, retails at about SR 1 (\$0.53) a litre and is also used to make laban (yoghurt) and other milk products. Cheap substitutes and a tendency not to drink it (the latter being combatted by promotions in schools and on television) are problems still to be overcome. Nevertheless, the kingdom's green revolution has made enormous progress with the last import bill greatly reduced and with many Saudis making their homes in rural areas.

The challenge of the 1990s will be to sustain that progress with conserving precious water supplies.

• Production of phosphate during the first one-third of this year amounted to 528,300 tonnes, while it was 519,200 during the same period the last year. Production of potash also increased from 74,700 tonnes in the first one-third of last year to 99,500 tonnes during the same period this year.

• The Corporation of Jordanian Industrial Estates will hold a symposium on "The Jordanian Industries and Future Challenges" in September of this year.

Participants, who will represent various industrial and banking sectors, will discuss means of developing, supporting, and marketing industry and its products in the kingdom.

• The undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture said Tuesday that the lack of rainfall in the South, and early heat in the East have lowered the estimated production of wheat, barley, and timothy for this year. He said that the ministry estimates a production of 100,000 tonnes of wheat, 30,000 of barley, and 8,000 tonnes of lentil for 1987.

• Egg Production and Marketing Co-operative Association president, Mr Suleiman Irtelma said the association has plans to decrease the 3.5 million egg-laying hens to 2.5 million. He said the annual domestic consumption of eggs is only 400 million eggs, while the production is 505 million eggs. He said the association has taken measures to limit the number of farms producing eggs.

• Seventy-six industrial firms are to take part in the permanent industry exhibition organized by the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The number is likely to increase once the (ACI) starts placing the industrial samples as local industry in the 850 square metre area of the exhibit.

• Participants in the Symposium on Investments

by Islamic Banks, which ended Sunday, 1 June, called for amending certain laws to enable Islamic banks to deal with central banks on a basis different from those on which commercial banks do.

Emphasis was put on the need for co-operation among Islamic banks in terms of creating a joint market that would make the transfer of money easier in Islamic countries, thus supporting investment there.

The symposium was a part of the sixth conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (Aal-al Baith Foundation.)

• The extension of \$25 million in loans from American banks to the Housing Bank through the Ministry of Finance has been guaranteed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The loans are given to encourage the construction of housing units for low-income citizens.

• Saudi Arabia Minister of Agriculture and Water, Dr Abdel Rahman Asl Al Sheikh is expected in Amman Wednesday to hold talks on bilateral and water relations with his Jordanian counterpart.

• The seminar on Arab agricultural marketing concluded its work in Amman Tuesday. Participants discussed Arab marketing policies and Arab agreements that organise the flow of agricultural products into the markets. They also discussed the obstacles facing Arab marketing strategies and means of overcoming them.

• The board of directors of Free Zones Corporation (FZC) has recommended amendment of the existing law governing investments in the free zones said FZC Director General, Yassin Al-Khaled. He said the step is taken in order to encourage more investors to invest in the zones.

Operations in the zones would be more dynamic as free zones directors would have the authority to resolve routine problems.

Russia plans to build satellites

NEW YORK, (OPECNA) — The Soviet Union is planning to build huge satellites in orbit that would convert sunlight into electricity for cities and industries on Earth, it was reported Sunday.

Quoting Soviet and American experts, the New York Times said in a front page story Sunday that Moscow would use the components

The ambitious solar plan comes after years of quiet Soviet research.

According to the Times, the plan apparently has several stages. The first is to create space-based solar reflectors — basically big mirrors — to bounce sunlight to earth, for lighting at night.

The second is putting together in orbit the huge satellites that turn sunlight into energy.

The third is constructing antennae on the ground to receive energy from these

satellites, feeding electricity into the power grid.

Current plans call for developing the first phases in the 1990s, with full development early in the next century. But few specific details of the plan have been provided.

The ultimate goal is to beam energy back to Earth for conversion into electricity, Nicholas Johnson, an American expert on the Soviet space programme, was quoted as saying.

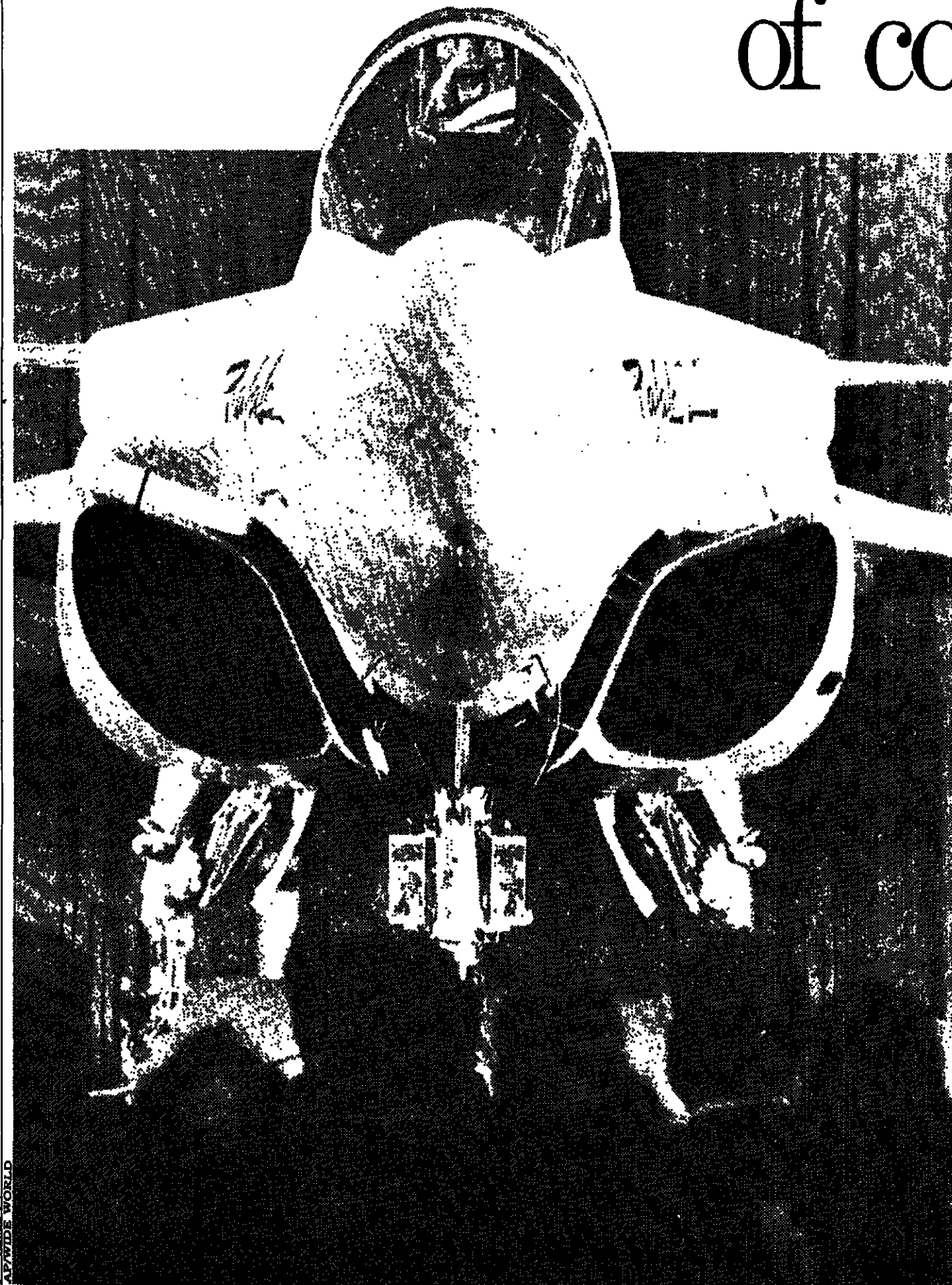
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THIRD WORLD WEAPONS

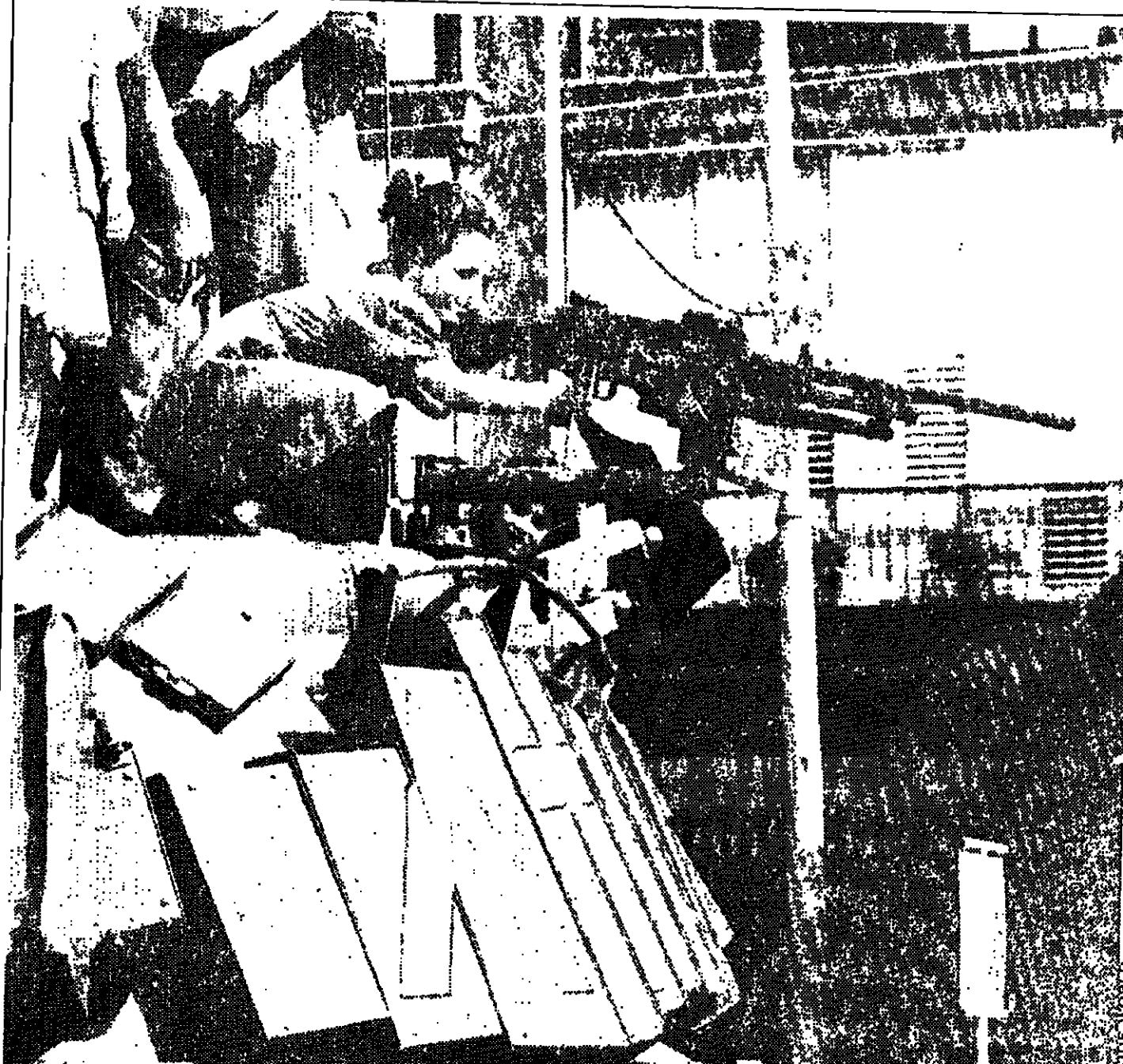
Arms out of control



Argentina delivered Nahuel tanks to Paraguay, and Egypt sold three Gomhouria light trainer aircraft to Jordan in 1956, the first recorded exports of Third World-produced weapons. Total annual Third World arms export now has reached the multi-billion-dollar level; Israel, South Africa, and both Koreas all are billion-dollar sellers. Brazil, the Third World's leading arms seller, forecasts its exports at US\$10 billion by 1994. With superpowers discussing nuclear arms control, the conventional weapons in which Third World countries specialize loom more important. No movement seeks to contain such weapons, so they remain essentially out of control as poor countries make them with scarce resources and keep the world as dangerous as ever.

■ Inside: Rivalry grows between NATO members, Britain and Italy, over economic muscle.

THIRD WORLD WEAPONS



For Israeli youngsters in a region bustling with armament, tanks become all-too-familiar playthings.

Israel has 2nd thoughts about arms industry role

Uzis, Gabriels more popular than Jaffa oranges

BY AARON KLIEMAN
in Tel Aviv, Israel

IN A WORLD of insecurity and militarization, regional tension and local arms races, the demand is far greater, regrettably, for Israeli-made Uzi sub-machine guns and Gabriel missiles than for Jaffa oranges.

As a result, Israel, which for the past two decades actively but quietly has pursued a broad program of military aid and weapons sales, has joined a number of newly industrialized countries among the more than 40 states supplying the international arms trade.

Estimates of Israel's annual defense exports exceed US\$1 billion, making the country a small but significant arms sup-

Aaron Klieman, professor of international relations at Tel Aviv University, wrote the 1985 book, *Israel's Global Reach: Arms Sales as Diplomacy*.

plier on a level comparable with Brazil, China and the two Koreas.

Signs are gathering that Israelis are having second thoughts about their arms industry. The Israeli Knesset has acted to end the export of arms to South Africa, which, by some estimates, was once the market for as much as 35 percent of Israel's defense sales before 1980.

A slackened economy has forced defense industry layoffs. Ariel Sharon, Israel's hawkish defense minister during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, and now the minister of commerce, called early in April for converting some arms plants to civilian use to save jobs.

Despite a narrow economic base, and a lack of strategic raw materials and diplomatic ties with many countries, Israel has succeeded as an arms seller through high motivation, ingenuity and diversification. In addition, no other supplier faces quite the same relentless military siege that Israel does, reflected

by the scale of armament found in Syria and surrounding Arab countries.

Israel's constant state of military preparedness requires a domestic defense industry to preserve Israel's slim qualitative edge and deterrent capability against the Arabs, and avoids complete dependence on outside sources for its defense needs.

However, the indigenous weapons manufacturers (over 100 companies employing about 60,000 people) are limited by scarce research and development funding, a small local market, high unit cost, excess productive capacity and layoffs of skilled workers.

They cannot expect to remain viable without selling their products abroad. Foreign arms sales account for an estimated one-fifth to one-quarter of the economy.

Military exports also have fostered political and commercial trade relations, including some countries that refrain from formal contacts with Israel but value its defense expertise. China has repeatedly been reported to be a purchaser of Israeli arms, although neither country has confirmed any transactions.

This arms policy may be in trouble. While other Third World weapons-selling countries such as Brazil, Argentina and China are expanding their arms reach, Israel is having a much harder time finding new outlets to substitute for traditional customers such as Iran, Argentina

and South Africa.

The present crisis derives from two main developments, the full impact of which Israeli policy planners have been slow to appreciate.

First, since 1984, the necessity for reducing defense expenditure as part of an economic recovery program has forced the Israeli military to cut back sharply on orders from domestic military industries and even to cancel some weapons development projects. Defense costs at least one-third of the national budget, the estimated figure rising to almost two-thirds, about \$4 billion, if repayment of debts incurred in arms purchases are included.

Israeli manufacturers were encouraged instead to seek alternative outlets abroad because global demand for arms has risen steadily since the early 1970s. Accordingly, by 1987, as much as 85 percent of production is for export.

Second, government and corporate officials have decided export policy without sufficient insight into new international arms market trends.

Foremost among these trends is the shift from a sellers' to a buyers' market. Third World governments are running out of money for their armed forces at the same time other developed countries have entered the arms market as suppliers to capitalize on their own arms production power or to recycle obsolete weapons systems.

The result is a glut of arms, munitions and military equipment available for sale.

On one hand, by selling small arms, Israel competes against the recent Third World entrants able to offer comparable goods at cheaper cost.

On the other hand, if Israeli merchants gamble instead on selling sophisticated major weapons systems like the Kfir fighter plane, the Merkava main battle tank or torpedo and patrol boats, they may be squeezed out of the market by the large producers, the United States, Britain, Italy, and even Brazil.

The layoff of 2,500 defense workers, plus the adverse publicity and political consequences of the Iran arms episode, and the South African military connection will lead to timely changes in the existing arms policy that will enable Israel to remain competitive.

One further decision is pending. It requires choosing between the traditional formula of aiming for as many clients as possible, or specialization.

Israeli designers have been in the forefront of "smart weapons" development, such as the Mazlet remote control vehicle (RCV), which was purchased by the United States.

This type of specialization could encourage Israeli leaders to redirect efforts away from controversial Third World customers.

By making these adjustments in the foreign military assistance program, Israel ought to secure, through arms diplomacy, a better balance of its vital security, economic and political interests until peace in the Middle East and elsewhere permits a secure Israel to fulfill its biblical prophecy of beating "its swords into plowshares."

Sales drop, policy fades for Reagan

Higher debt, lower oil prices shrink demand

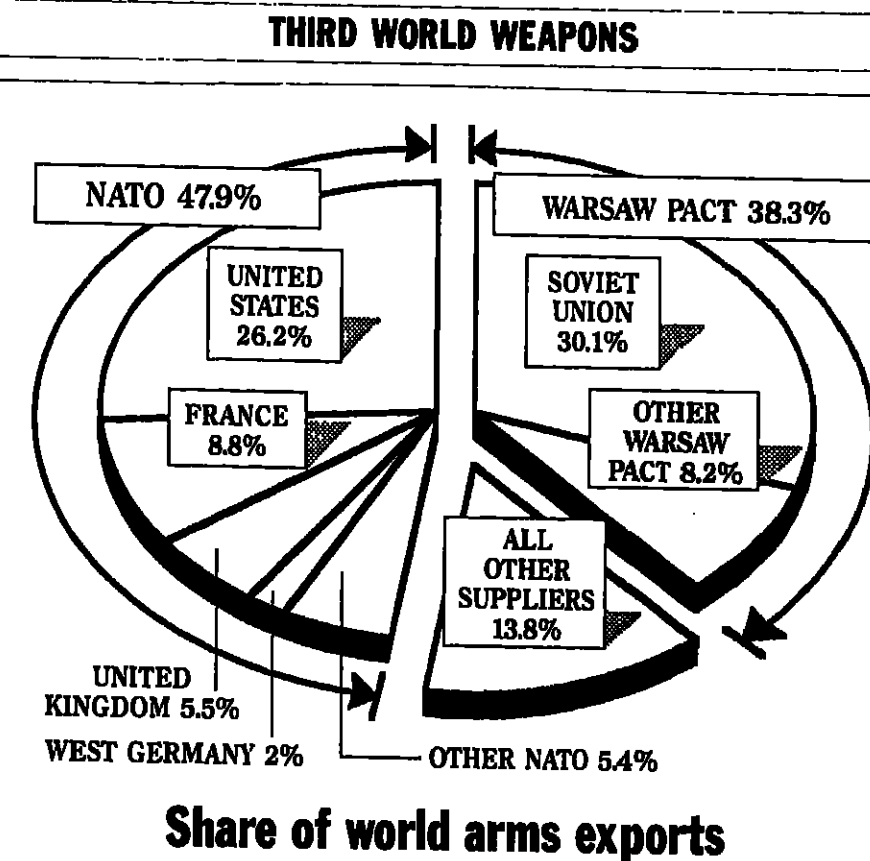
BY JACQUELINE GRAPIN
in Washington DC, USA

UNDER THE CARTER administration, US embassies throughout the world received a 1977 memo saying they were not authorized to support US companies trying to sell weapons to foreign nations.

Another memo sent by President Reagan to US embassies in July 1981 established a new doctrine. The exact opposite of the Carter memo, the message read:

"The United States cannot defend the free world's interests alone. The United States must, in today's world, not only strengthen its own military capabilities, but be prepared to help its friends and allies to strengthen theirs

Jacqueline Grapin is *WorldPaper's* associate editor for Western Europe.



through the transfer of conventional arms and other forms of security assistance. The United States therefore views the transfer of conventional arms and other defense articles and services as an essential element of its global defense posture and an indispensable component of its foreign policy."

Despite the intention of the Reagan administration, reality has not matched the doctrine.

A recent US Congress survey shows arms sales from the United States and

all other global sources to the Third World in fact have declined considerably during Reagan's terms.

The sale of US\$30 billion of arms in 1985 to the Third World, with the Middle East and Southeast Asia representing 75 percent of the market, was the lowest level since 1978.

US sales fell in 1985 to \$5.3 billion from \$7.1 billion in 1984. For the second year in a row, a European supplier, Great Britain, and not the United States was in second place, behind the USSR.

Even the Soviets suffered a drop in arms sales, to \$9.1 billion from \$12.8 billion in 1984.

The decline in weapons sales is partly the result of the worsening financial situation of Third World nations, especially in the Middle East and Asia, because of the fall in oil prices, and in Latin America, because of the increasing foreign debt.

In the United States, the domestic market has shrunk because Congress has capped the US defense budget. US, European and Japanese manufacturers increasingly compete for a global market that is further crowded with Third World arms makers.

Some specialists in the arms field blame the Carter administration's idealist efforts in 1977 to restrain US arms sales for spurring Third World arms makers. Carter's failed scheme to withdraw US troops from South Korea encouraged the Korean government to promote domestic weapons makers.

While US sales have declined, US funds to help foreign countries bolster their security rose between 1980 and 1985 by approximately 400 percent, to \$11.8 billion from \$2.7 billion.

The Reagan arms doctrine quietly may have expired under a Democratic Party-controlled Congress favoring replacing military assistance with economic cooperation. But regardless of the results of the debate about the US role as a global arms supplier, US policy and the arms sales to foreign countries themselves will be increasingly influenced by the inroads of Third World manufacturers into this market.

Indonesian is one-man arms industry

Habibie's 'ruthless' selection builds work force

In a poor country of 175 million people, Dr. B.J. Habibie stands out in Indonesia as a one-man arms industry.

The holder of a doctorate in aeronautical engineering, he not only is state minister for research and technology, he is president and chairman of the three largest arms-manufacturing firms in Indonesia: Nusantara for aircraft, Pal for ships, and Pindad, a small-arms maker.

Indonesia has been making modern weaponry since 1975, the year after Habibie left his post as director of applied technology for the West German aircraft manufacturer Messerschmitt Bolow Blohm (MBB) and took over the department for advanced technology and aeronautics in the state-owned oil company Pertamina.

The department became part of the nucleus for Nusantara, which became equal partners in 1984 with MBB in a new company, New Transport Technology, to produce a light helicopter, the NB-109. Habibie has placed heavy emphasis on helicopters as a keystone to the Indonesian arms industry, reasoning that as the world's largest archipelago,

the country is a major market for aircraft required for island hopping.

"Now look at my country," he said, "13,400 islands, from the west to the east a distance equal to that between San Francisco and New York. We have a huge potential market."

In addition, under Habibie's direction, Indonesia has produced its first domestically-designed aircraft, the CN235.

Habibie initially recruited his labor force from teenage graduates of technical high schools, setting a training standard that forced out recruits after a single failure. Employment has risen from about 300 to 13,000, important in a country with a per capita income of US\$560.

"Dr. Habibie gave no quarter and asked for none," the *Pakistan Defence Journal* reported in 1986. "His ruthless selection system for the Nusantara workforce gave him the very best that West Java could provide." His work, says the journal, is "a copybook example of what developing nations should try to achieve."

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THIRD WORLD WEAPONS

Brazil asks no questions, just outsells Third World

Young arms industry forecasts \$10 billion by 1994

By RICARDO AZUMBUJA ARNT
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A CONVOY of 73 heavy trucks escorted by rigid columns of highway security police traveled during the predawn hours of January 13 over the 160 kilometers between São José dos Campos and the Santos harbor in the state of São Paulo. No one was allowed near the harbor until 118 containers filled with 8,000 Solo-Solo Astro II missiles from Avibras Air Space Industries were loaded aboard the SS Faltuikair from Qatar, bound for Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

The sellers of Brazilian armaments work in secrecy, far from public attention. The arms business is a matter of national security, under strict control of military and diplomatic authorities.

Brazil lists tanks with civilian buses and trucks under the export category "heavy vehicles." Machine guns, rifles and bullets are listed as "hunting arms and ammunition."

The sellers insist the secrecy is imposed by the buyers. But that secrecy is a key to the expansion of the Brazilian arms industry, the largest Third World exporter and bright spot in an economy beset by a US\$103 billion external debt that has forced the government to declare a moratorium on interest payments. Arms follow coffee, iron ore and

Ricardo Azumbuja Arnt is on the foreign desk of *Jornal do Brasil*.

cereals as the major Brazilian export.

What evidence is available indicates that the business is growing. The Federal Senate's National Security Committee reported Brazil exported \$5 billion in arms in 1985, up from \$1.5 billion in 1983. The forecast of the National Plan for the Export of Military Equipment starts with a \$4 billion profit in 1989 growing to \$10 billion in 1994. Until the early 1970s, Brazil did not even have an export arms business.

Brazil's stock in trade is armaments that are easy to maintain, so simple that they are accessible to relatively untrained troops, available to all without political pressure or entangling alliances and cheaper than US, Soviet and European equipment.

"In the entire world," says Jose Luis Whitaker Ribeiro, founder, president and principal shareholder in Engesa, of São José dos Campos, the privately held company that is the country's largest arms maker, "there is an intense search for the type of material used in conventional war."

"The great powers are no longer active in this market. They are concerned with other types of conflicts and they have made their equipment excessively sophisticated. The industrialized countries are becoming less equipped for conventional wars. That space was left for Brazil's arms industry. That is the market we occupy."

Future profit estimates may fall shy of reality judging from the activity of the

Top Third World arms makers

Brazil moves up to join India, Israel

Rank/Country	1950-1984	1980-1984	Rank for 1980-1984
1. India	3,923	1,265	2
2. Israel	2,885	1,342	1
3. South Africa	1,143	380	6
4. Brazil	1,116	566	3
5. Taiwan	1,051	562	4
6. North Korea	775	265	8
7. Argentina	599	391	5
8. South Korea	478	346	7
9. Egypt	289	162	9
10. ASEAN Countries	249	109	10
Others	200		121
TOTAL	12,707	5,509	

Figures are expressed in US million dollars, at constant (1975) prices. Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

past 12 months.

Engesa has negotiated with Iraq to sell 300 35-ton Osorio tanks equipped with 105mm or 120mm cannon, 300 EE-9 Rattle armored cars, EE-3 Jara-

cara vehicles equipped with an anti-helicopter cannon, and the amphibious EE-11 Urutu. Iraq has bought, from the privately held Avibras, launchers capable of firing 32 rockets and 23 Tucano T-27 planes from Embraer, a state-private venture. The total order was estimated at \$2.3 billion.

Saudi Arabia, while negotiating for arms estimated in value from \$1.3 billion to \$3 billion, has discussed Engesa building a tank factory in Jeddah. Also reported on the waiting list are Turkey, seeking a \$2.3 billion order, even Col. Muammar Ghaddafi, despite the denials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chile reportedly wants tanks and planes worth \$1 billion.

To critics from the Roman Catholic Church and small pacifist groups, the arms industry notes that 90 percent of its business is foreign exports. Brazil spends less than one percent of its gross domestic product on its military budget—only Mexico, and Costa Rica, which has no army, spend less in Latin America. The Brazilian armed forces in 1986 were the 22nd most important client of the domestic arms industry.

Brazilian arms sellers enjoy a comfortable political neutrality. Brazil is neither a colonial nor imperial power. It imposes no conditions on sales. Under the cloak of national security, its operations are secret. It asks no questions. It sells.

Embraer's Tucano T-27 military training plane has become a mainstay of Brazil's flourishing arms export business.

THIRD WORLD WEAPONS

Slogan 'Force to Forces' drives ordnance effort

Pakistan bids to become profitable exporter

By MOHAMMED AFTAB KHAN
in Islamabad, Pakistan

COST AND THE unreliability of suppliers in the United States, Britain and the rest of Europe initially drove Pakistan into the arms-making business. Domestic production started in 1953 to cater to the Pakistan Army, Air Force and Navy because the country had little hard currency to pay for costly imports from countries that were not totally dependable in time of war.

Because all the ordnance factories were in Imperial India when Pakistan and India split and gained independence in 1947, Pakistan's arms industry started with nothing.

But during the past 15 years, with Chinese help amounting to at least US\$600 million through 1980, Pakistan, a country with a per capita income of \$280—one of the world's lowest—and with little industrial base at its founding, has emerged as an exporter.

More than 40,000 Pakistanis are employed at the government's Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) in a half dozen locations, producing goods for 30 countries, mostly in the Persian Gulf and Middle East. They work under the sales slogan "Force for the Forces."

The Pakistan government claims the annual value of arms exports has risen to more than \$250 million, up from \$40 million seven years ago, with a goal of \$500 million for the 1990s.

POF-produced weapons have a reputation for low cost and quality. The MP-582 submachine gun of West German origin, of approved NATO standard, won a first prize in Britain in 1986.

The British helped establish Pakistan's first ordnance factory in 1953 in Wah, 18 miles northwest of Islamabad. It produced World War II-vintage rifles and ammunition of British design.

After entering into a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with the United States in 1954, Pakistan received US military aid worth \$750 million by 1967. But when India and Pakistan went to war on September 6, 1965, the United States shut off all military supplies to both belligerents.

The embargo spurred Pakistan to expand and diversify its production.

The government turned to China, which swiftly responded in 1966 with low-cost aid for ordnance infrastructure. Most Chinese equipment and technicians came virtually free.

The Wah plant expanded. Chinese-built factories were erected around Wah. The Chinese established factories in Karachi, 1,000 miles south of Wah, and the Heavy Machinery Complex and the Heavy Forge and Foundry at Taxila, a few miles west of Wah.

built factories were erected around Wah. The Chinese established factories in Karachi, 1,000 miles south of Wah, and the Heavy Machinery Complex and the Heavy Forge and Foundry at Taxila, a few miles west of Wah.

At full capacity of \$400-\$500 million, the factories' turnover would amount to 10 percent of total manufacturing in Pakistan. The POF claims to be Pakistan's single largest industrial enterprise.

POF chairman General Talat Masood sees the arms industry benefitting the economy by offering technically trained manpower incentive to remain instead of leaving Pakistan and by reducing the strain on limited foreign exchange resources with weaponry that would have to be bought abroad.

China was Pakistan's chief weapons supplier between 1970, one year before the start of another war with India, and

1980. Chinese arms accounted for 75 percent of Pakistani armor and 65 percent of the Air Force. In the decade, China provided 500 tanks, 25 naval vessels, 300 combat aircraft as well as large quantities of other military equipment. Chinese-designed weapons flowed from the POF assembly line, although Masood emphasizes the diversity of production as well as claiming the industry is ready to tackle more sophisticated goods.

"We have reached that stage," he said, "where we are poised to undertake a more broad-based defense industrial activity encompassing progressive manufacture of guided missiles and smart munitions." ♦

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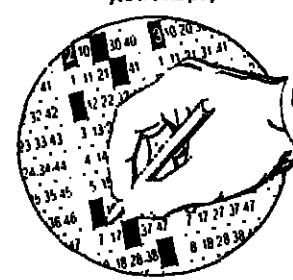
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Mohammed Aftab Khan is chief economic reporter in Islamabad for the government's Associated Press of Pakistan.

THIRD WORLD WEAPONS

Handy grenades for export part of rich NIC business

Singapore, South Korea become top suppliers

BY WALDEN BELLO
in San Francisco, USA

THE NEWLY Industrialized Countries (NICs) of East Asia are not merely

specialists in the production and export of garments and electronics. Singapore and South Korea in particular increasingly have been able to develop an indigenous arms manufacturing capacity not only for self-armament but also

for export.

According to the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), South Korean military exports rose from nothing in 1973 to US\$355 million a decade later, making that country one of the five largest exporters of weapons in the Third World.

Singapore's arms production capacity first came to the attention of much of the world in the early 1980s when it was reported to be supplying a variety of light arms to Kampuchean anti-communist rebel forces. There are other, expanding markets: Africa, West Germany, South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand and the Middle East.

In her recent comprehensive report on Singapore's arms industry, Jacquelyn Port notes that Singapore might be exporting at least 30 percent of indigenous arms production. By 1983, according to ACDA, arms exports were a \$20 million business. In accounting for Singapore's role as Southeast Asia's premier arms manufacturer, Port writes that, among other things, "Singapore's version of hand grenades are half the size of American-made grenades and more suited to the smaller non-Caucasian hand size."

In both Singapore and Korea, the arms industry had its origins in ambitions for self-sufficiency by highly militarized states. In the late 1960s, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew declared his intention to convert Singapore into the "Israel of Southeast Asia." Nearly twenty years later, with 24 troops per 1,000 people and with 6 percent of the GNP going to defense, Singapore, claims economist Hafiz Nirza, is "one of the most militarized countries in the world."

South Korea's 600,000-strong military establishment is one of the biggest in the world. Long dependent on US aid and sales, the military was alarmed by several developments in the early and late 1970s: President Richard Nixon's withdrawal of one US Army division from the peninsula; the US mood of military disengagement from Asia following the defeat in Vietnam; and President Jimmy Carter's stated intention to withdraw the remaining 40,000 US troops in 1978. The desire to achieve self-sufficiency in conventional weaponry was one of the key determinants of the decision to re-allocate capital from labor-intensive industries to heavy and chemical industries.

"Defense industrialization," asserts economist Chung-In Moon, was a key in pushing South Korean industry to expand and deepen its industrial capability when wage increases, heightened competition and rising protectionism were eroding its comparative advantage in the production of light manufactures like textiles and garments to aspiring NICs like the Philippines, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China and Sri Lanka. In short, South Korea's current successes in exporting sophisticated consumer durables like VCRs and cars stem in part from the decision to develop heavy and chemical industries for defense in the 1970s.

Despite their successes in penetrating Third World and some advanced country markets, arms exports came to less than 1 percent of the value of Singapore's exports and 1.5 percent of that of South Korea's exports in 1983. The share of arms exports is likely to grow. Wars, civil strife, and the spiraling arms races in the Third World will continue to fuel the demand for cheap arms.

Walden Bello, a Philippine economist for the Institute for Food and Development Policy in San Francisco, has co-authored the recently published book *American Lake: The Nuclear Peril in the Pacific*.

THIRD WORLD WEAPONS

Tales of two arms dealers

One loses, faces jail,
other lives posh life

Iran caper leads to cell Pakistani is convicted

BY MARK MARSELLI
in Bridgeport, USA

WHEN US AGENTS surrounded and arrested Arif Durrani last October at the Radio Research Instrument Co., Inc. in Danbury, Connecticut, the Pakistani did not know that he had been watched for months—since he first contacted Radio Research in May 1986 to order the export of parts for the Hawk surface-to-air missile. "The deal was unusual, very unusual," later testified Edmond Doyle, a Radio Research vice president who reported Durrani's interest in missile parts to the US Customs Service. The agents apparently did not know they had connected with what was to become one month later one of the biggest stories of the Reagan administration—the Iran-contra affair.

Durrani's arrest and subsequent trial included romantic spy novel elements that many expect from the Third World arms trade—shadowy businessmen operating from false addresses, secret deals, CIA lists, phony destinations, shipments with strange markings, huge sums of money, even a mistress. But Durrani's fate was very real—in April he became the first person in the United States found guilty of illegally shipping weapons parts to Iran.

His defense attorneys argued during his two-week trial in a Bridgeport, Connecticut, federal court, that Durrani thought he was acting on behalf of the United States government. He claimed to have met in a London hotel room in September a man named White who

he believed was Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North.

The North story was unconfirmed because the White House Marine said he would insist on his constitutional right to refuse to answer questions and he was not called to testify. Durrani claimed the CIA had given him a shopping list that initially the Iranians had given the United States. Over CIA objections, his attorneys put the list in the court record, and it matched a list the Tower Commission published.

"I was a delivery boy," Durrani testified.

The prosecution revealed in court that as federal agents watched, Durrani had exported without a permit in August one crate of missile parts worth US\$22,000 that he had purchased from Radio Research. The invoice reported the box contained electronic equipment worth \$367.18. Durrani was arrested the day he inspected a second shipment, worth \$180,000, that never left the country.

According to testimony, the August

shipment went from Radio Research to Jetstream Freight Services near John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City. The addressee stenciled on the crate was the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Someone at Jetstream blacked out the Jordanian name and replaced it with a graffiti-like scrawl, "Mr. T," which agents initially believed referred to a tough character in a US TV series. It turned out to be a reference to an employee of Comexat Air Freight in Brussels, and, said a court witness, a joke. The now-defunct People Express flew the crate to Brussels, where Comexat handled it for a firm known as Kram Ltd.

At Kram Ltd., the trail ended. No court testimony was offered about what happened thereafter to the crate. The prosecution, in fact, claimed Kram Ltd. did not even exist. Durrani claimed it belonged to a Portuguese, Manuel Pires, who flits in and out of his story. Durrani said Pires convinced him the parts would go to Iran as part of the government-approved swap. According

Parts for Hawk missile
led to Durrani trial.

to court papers, Durrani had made at least 16 shipments during 1986 to Pires and had received, in turn, \$800,000.

Durrani, 39, who came to the United States in 1973 to form the California-based Merex Corporation, a maker and broker of airplane parts, said he became part of the weapons world through his father—a member of the Pakistani military—who had a lucrative sideline as an arms importer and that the family business was the source of a \$2 million bank account Durrani used to bankroll his company and support his family in a \$1 million California home. The prosecution also claimed that he channeled funds through a second company to build a nest egg for himself and a mistress.

"There is a handful of people," Durrani said, "if you are part of them, sooner or later you know of every movement of weapons through the free world...I knew the principal people." ♦

The arms trade 'an ordinary business'

Hostile neighbors boon to Thai top merchant

"It is an ordinary business," says Nouvarutana Phathanodorn. "In fact, selling arms is the same as selling air conditioners or any other product." As Thailand's premier arms merchant, he has sold an estimated US\$750 million in weaponry during the past five years. His fortune supports a \$1.5 million Bangkok office with a \$2 million annual payroll, a \$2.5 million Bangkok villa with a \$1,500 monthly electric bill, a garage stuffed with a Rolls Royce, a Mercedes 500L, two BMWs and a Japanese limousine and a pool filled with 300 prize carp he says are worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Nouvarutana's breakthrough came after the bloody October 6, 1976, coup that brought Thanin

Kraivichien to power as prime minister. To please the military—which toppled him a year later—Thanin produced a billion-dollar military procurement budget, of which Nouvarutana's share was \$400 million.

He sells tanks, warships and artillery, but his mainstay is Bell helicopters. He has sold nearly 300 in 15 years, including \$50 million worth in a single year. Nouvarutana recently signed a \$32.8 million contract for five Bell 214STs for the Thai Navy in competition with United Technologies Sikorsky, a US firm that he has kept out of the Thai skies.

He says his success is based on the range of products he offers rather than his connections with Thai top officials. He says he

avoids kickback payments.

"If I had done that," Nouvarutana remarked about kickbacks in the only interview he ever has given, published in March in the Bangkok monthly *Business Review*, "I would not have survived this long."

"I am one of the Thai boys who is seriously in the arms sales business for one particular objective—I want the country to have the right weapons."

He said he expected to be in business for a long while.

"You can sell arms," he said, "as long as our neighbors are our enemies."

—By Sopon Onkgara, editor in chief, and reporter Thetchai Yong of The Business Review, Bangkok, Thailand.

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About the Author . . .

Howard Raiffa has been at Harvard since 1957 and holds the Frank P. Ramsey Chair in Managerial Economics, jointly sponsored by the Graduate School of Business Administration and the Department of Economics. He is a frequent consultant to industry. As one of the outstanding pioneers of decision analysis, Dr. Raiffa has authored a number of major books on the subject.

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NATO RIVALRIES



BY DAVID SINCLAIR
in London, England

A scurrilous rumor circulating in the financial subculture of Europe suggests that Italy has overtaken Britain at the table of the world's richest nations. Ordinarily, this canard would be greeted with that good-natured ridicule

we British traditionally reserve for the exaggerated claims of excitable foreigners. After all, it appears to have originated from the departed Italian prime minister, Bettino Craxi, and it might well be thought that Signor Craxi's three and one-half years in office—the longest unbroken run of any prime minister in Italy since World War II—have gone to his head.

However, the Italians have added injury to insult by producing calculations

purporting to show that in 1987 Italy's gross domestic product will reach US\$646 billion against Britain's US\$625 billion. These figures make Italy 3 percent richer than Britain and there is a danger that they may be taken seriously in some quarters.

The British, though, do not panic. The bulldog breed, while displaying its customary tolerance and affection toward Italians, recognizes braggadocio for what it is and remain convinced that Great Britain still means exactly what it says notwithstanding the noises now emanating from Rome.

It is true that the Italians have more money than we do: every pound in a British pocket equates to 2,000 lira in an Italian one. But quantity is less important than quality. The word "sterling" stands for quality throughout civilization. Our pounds are collectors' items in the international currency exchanges, which explains why there never seems to be enough of them to go around in Britain itself.

London is one of the world's most influential financial markets where fortunes are made and exported to Panama, the Cayman Islands, Andorra, Liechtenstein, the Channel Islands and the underdeveloped countries, not to mention the millions of pounds freely donated to Swiss banks.

More important, perhaps, is the question of what pounds can actually buy, in comparison with lira—their purchasing power.

A recent official report from the European Economic Community revealed that in terms of purchasing power, Britons are 13 percent better off than Italians, who are poorer than Belgians but richer than the Spanish, Irish, Greeks and Portuguese, in that order.

Sources in Rome claim that when the so-called black economy (that is the under-the-counter earnings which avoid taxes) is taken into account, Italy's national income is 15 percent higher than official returns show. We British, with our traditions of fair play, would say that does not count because it is cheating.

All right, the Italians say, if you Brits are so well off, how do you explain the fact that in 1985 about 14 percent of households in Italy owned a dishwasher, against only 6 percent in Britain? The answer is simple: we are not afraid of getting our hands dirty, or at least wet. Our priorities are different.

We lead the world in the acquisition of video recorders and we prefer to pay for our state television service rather than, as in Italy, allowing it to be financed by advertising. We regard selling things as being embarrassingly unsophisticated.

When it comes to automobiles, the fact that in Italy 67 percent of households own them—5 percent more than in Britain—merely serves to indicate that our public transport system is better (the trains run on time, more or less) and that here cars cost more because instead of being narrowly patriotic and mainly supporting our own domestic automobile industry, we import vehicles from Japan, France, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and, yes, even Italy, thereby generously sharing our wealth with those countries. It is surely a mark of our financial superiority, as well as a testament to our unselfishness, that hardly any country imports as many of our cars as we do theirs.

Even in social terms, there can be no doubt that Britain remains richer than Italy. We can afford to maintain 13 percent of our population out of work, whereas only 11 percent of Italians manage to be unemployed. More than 175,000 of our people can afford to get divorced every year, a privilege accorded to only 16,000 or so Italians. And, as if further proof were needed, Britain is wealthy enough to give state handouts to about a quarter of its people, including the queen—and in spite of the fact that she is said to be the richest woman in the world, we do not even ask her to pay income tax.

Quod erat demonstrandum, as they used to say when Italy was richer than Britain, about 2,000 years ago.

David Sinclair is a British journalist.

A canard...

Until the 1980s on the verge of disaster, the Italian economy has come back, raising claims from Rome that it has surpassed Britain in economic muscle and deserves a larger role in Europe's councils.

NATO RIVALRIES

...un trionfo

BY LUDINA BARZINI
in Milan, Italy

To think of Italy was to be reminded of a host of national afflictions: political instability, labor unrest, inefficiency, mismanagement, a swollen bureaucracy, rampant inflation. Until the 1980s, Italy was on the verge of economic disaster.

But Italy has staged a magnificent comeback, transforming its economy into one of the most vibrant in Europe. Inflation has dipped to 4.5 percent from 21.2 percent in 1982. The lira has regained much of its strength, growing to 1,300 to the US dollar this year from 2,000 to the dollar last year.

Entrepreneurs are back into small business; new ventures have tripled since 1982. Italy has already surpassed Britain in per capita gross national product amid predictions its economy will grow faster than that of any major European nation.

One of the free market world's seven most industrialized nations, Italy has decided that it has the right to be considered the fifth country, ahead of Britain.

At the Paris meeting in February of the seven major industrial states, the

Italians stormed out on the grounds they, rather than Britain, should occupy the fifth seat since their economy had grown larger than Britain's since the May 1986 Tokyo economic summit.

Italy is determined to make its point even more forcibly by factoring into its gross domestic product its black economy—reckoned to be worth nearly a sixth of Italian output, or at least US\$100 billion.

Gianni Agnelli, chairman of the Fiat group, Italy's largest private industrial conglomerate, says the turning point was the October 1980 Turin march of 40,000 workers who stood up against the unions. They declared they wanted to work and had the right to do so without being disturbed by the unions.

"From that moment, discipline returned to the factories," he says. "Oil prices going down, and the dollar declining brought inflation down and settled our balance of payments."

Political stability was an important factor. The 43rd government in less than 40 years remained in office nearly four years thanks to Bettino Craxi, a socialist at the helm of a center-left, five-party coalition. This gave entrepreneurs relative security. With luck, Italy's economy has recovered so that it can stand even a new round of rotating governments.

Hard, serious work has increased the

Italy-Britain at a glance

ITALY	Category	BRITAIN
57.1 million	Population	56.4 million
116,303	Area (square miles)	94,226
US\$10,200	Per Capita Income	US\$9,011
US\$600 billion	Gross National Product	US\$582 billion
2.7%	Growth Rate	3%
11.6%	Unemployment Rate	13%
US\$97.5 billion	Exports	US\$101.2 billion
US\$100 billion	Imports	US\$108.9 billion
\$251.3 billion	National Budget	\$197 billion
1.1 million	Students of Higher Education	972,000
521/1,000	Telephones	514/1,000
336/1,000	Televisions	329/1,000
9.6/1,000	Birth Rate	12.6/1,000
9.9/1,000	Death Rate	12/1,000

credibility of the private sector. Many of Italy's large companies were dinosaurs, fading away and destined for bankruptcy. Modern management science became commonplace. Last year, pretax profits of 175 of the largest firms more than doubled over the previous year.

Benetton, which sells colorful, youth-oriented clothing through 4,000 retail franchises in 60 countries, is an example of the impact of high technology. Computer-aided design and manufacturing allow Benetton to alter shapes, sizes, colors and patterns quickly and

cheaply. More than a-half a million garments move daily in and out of an automated warehouse staffed by just 15 employees.

With the help of such methods, Italy accounted in 1986 for 8.1 percent of the world's manufactured exports compared to Britain's share of 7.7 percent, down by 200 percent over the years. Thirty years ago, Italy accounted for a 3.3 percent share, while Great Britain provided more than 20 percent.

Ludina Barzini, heads the Rome office of the publishing group, Rizzoli Corriere della Sera.

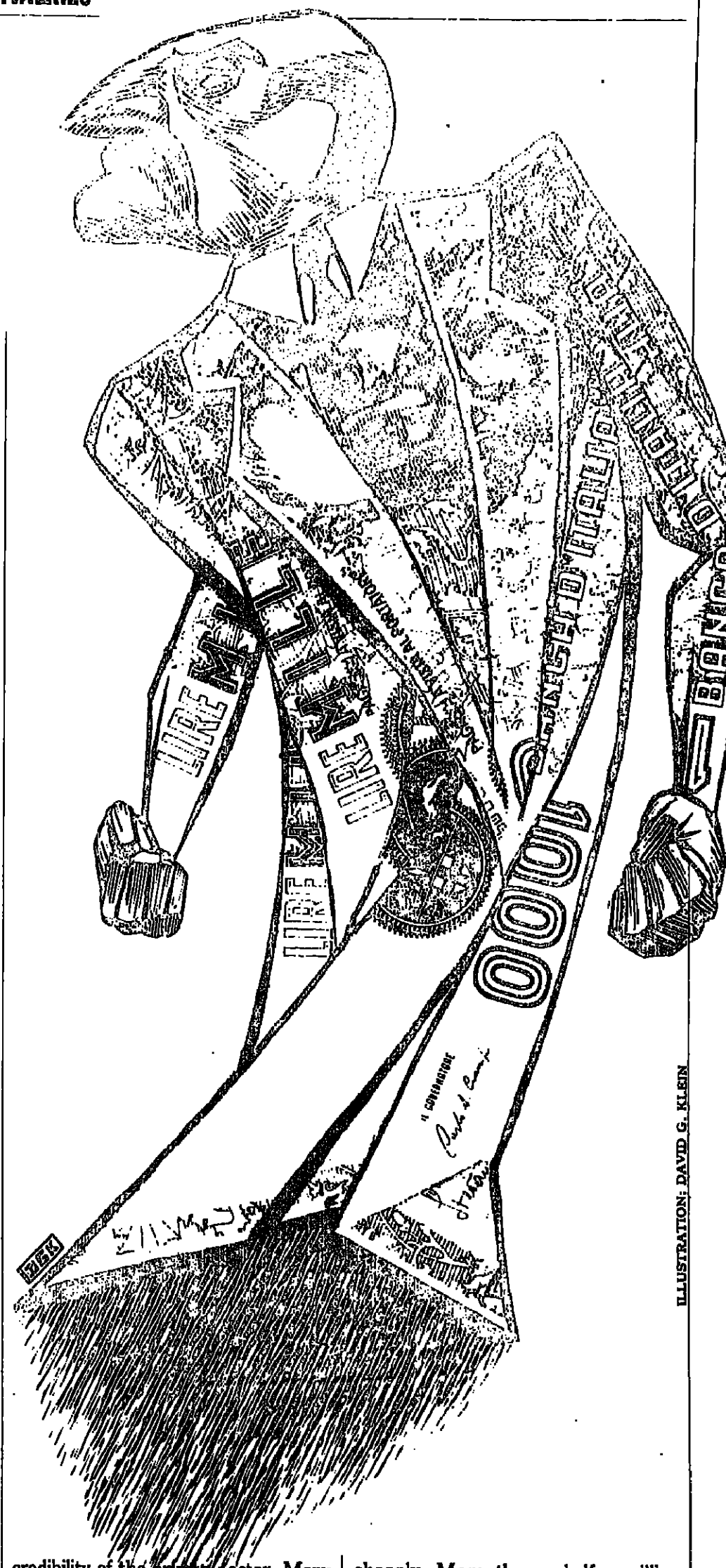


ILLUSTRATION: DAVID G. KLEIN

NATO RIVALRIES

US role, arms debate shake NATO links

Concern rises amid command change

BY ANTHONY WESTELL
in Brussels, Belgium

THE NORTH ATLANTIC Treaty Organization (NATO) will be commanded this month by a new US general. The change comes in the midst of growing concern over the future of the US role in the alliance. Also underway is a debate over the importance of nuclear weapons in defending Europe, linked to the hopes and fears rising from the emerging Gorbachev era in the Soviet Union.

General Bernard W. Rogers, 65, is

Anthony Westell, *WorldPaper's* associate editor for North America, is temporarily on assignment in Europe.

retiring after seven years as supreme allied commander and warning that the Soviet push to rid Europe of nuclear missiles, the weapons the alliance counts on to maintain its deterrent force, comes when "NATO's current qualitative edge is eroding."

Since the top NATO commander is always the commander of US forces in Europe, President Reagan appointed the new leader, General John Rogers Galvin, 58, after cursory consultation with the allies. Unknown in Europe, Galvin has led US forces in Latin America since 1985 and is identified with support for the Nicaraguan *contras* who have little popular appeal in Europe.

Many in NATO hope that the Gorbachev era may end the long Cold War.

NATO-Warsaw Treaty confrontation

East holds superiority in most categories

	NATO	Warsaw Pact
Forces in Europe	2.6 million	4 million
Divisions	88	115
Battle Tanks	13,740	26,900
Other armored vehicles	33,000	53,000
Combat aircraft	2,990	7,430
Attack helicopters	560	1,135
Support helicopters	1,960	1,180
Intermediate nuclear warheads	316	1,323
Antitank weapons launchers	13,370	18,000
Artillery/mortars	11,000	19,900
Attack submarines	200	290
Combat ships	45	40

The fear is that Gorbachev's initiatives may be more style than substance, really designed to create new stresses for US-European cooperation—leading to the NATO nightmare of the "decoupling" of North America and Western Europe.

Of greater concern are possible differences between European and US strategies on defense and arms control. NATO strategy against Soviet attack for years has been based on

"flexible response." That means holding off the Soviets with conventional forces weapons for at least 30 days, then using a variety of nuclear weapons to counter the Soviets' ability to bring in massive reinforcements before US reinforcements arrive in Europe.

Concern now centers on Soviet proposals to remove intermediate- and short-range nuclear weapons from Europe. Although the zero-zero intermediate-range goal was first proposed by Reagan with NATO backing and was accepted by Gorbachev, Europeans now see it as a threat that would leave the Soviet Union superior in conventional forces.

"Nuclear arms cannot be dealt with in isolation," the North Atlantic Council declared in December. "We also look for progress in other areas of arms control, particularly since reductions in nuclear weapons will increase the importance of removing conventional disparities and eliminating chemical weapons."

The Soviets control 441 multi-warhead, medium-range missiles and 1,565 single-warhead, short-range missiles in Europe, compared to NATO's 316 single-warhead, medium-range missiles and 235 short-range missiles. NATO claims that, in Europe, 4 million Warsaw Pact troops, bolstered by 26,900 tanks and 7,430 aircraft, face its 2.6 million troops, with 13,740 tanks and 2,980 combat aircraft.

The European allies were shocked when President Reagan unilaterally announced his Star Wars or Strategic Defense Initiative, and at Reykjavik with Gorbachev, went beyond the position he had first discussed with NATO and discussed eliminating all nuclear weapons.

As a result, growing European cooperation, strength and confidence may mean less dependence on US strength and leadership. The European Economic Community is slowly becoming more of an economic and political reality. The major European countries are cooperating more than ever in weapons development and procurement, renewing interest in a European Defense Community. Something rather like a European version of Star Wars is being planned under the euphemism of an Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile.

NATO RIVALRIES

West's nuclear hesitation bewilders Warsaw Pact

Easterners ask if capitalism can live without bomb

BY SILVIU BRUCAN
in Bucharest, Romania

EASTERN EUROPEANS in the Warsaw Treaty countries are bewildered. Paris, London and Bonn have successively reacted negatively to every Soviet-United States rapprochement over the denuclearization of Europe. Not only the Russians, but the Poles, Romanians and Czechs were shocked to hear British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arguing on Soviet television

Silviu Brucan is *WorldPaper's* associate editor for Eastern Europe.

that nuclear weapons are good for Europe and should be maintained for the sake of peace. Hardline commentators now are saying that capitalism cannot live without nuclear bombs.

A Romanian columnist recalled that when North Atlantic Treaty Organization senior planners felt that a Soviet-US agreement on medium-range missiles appeared imminent, they cried about short-range missiles. Now when Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposes also to scrap the latter, they sound the alarm that in a denuclearized Europe, the Warsaw Treaty forces would enjoy conventional weapons superiority. But they never mention, as though

these factors did not exist, British nuclear rockets and the French *force de frappe*, both targeted on the East.

Gorbachev's turnabout from the Reykjavik package separating medium-range missiles from the other intricate arms control issues has been warmly welcomed all over Eastern Europe. East Germany and Czechoslovakia were never happy with the countermeasures decided in 1980 to base more missiles on their territory as a response to NATO's decision to deploy Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe. Even after Reykjavik, Romania kept advocating dealing separately with the issue of medium-range missiles.

Gorbachev's "common security" concept has become a buzzword in the Eastern media and is defined as a radical break with the traditional "egotistical attempt to strengthen security at someone else's expense." Eastern Europeans recall Leonid Brezhnev's decision to deploy the medium-range SS-20 missile at a time when Western Europe had no similar weapon. The decision

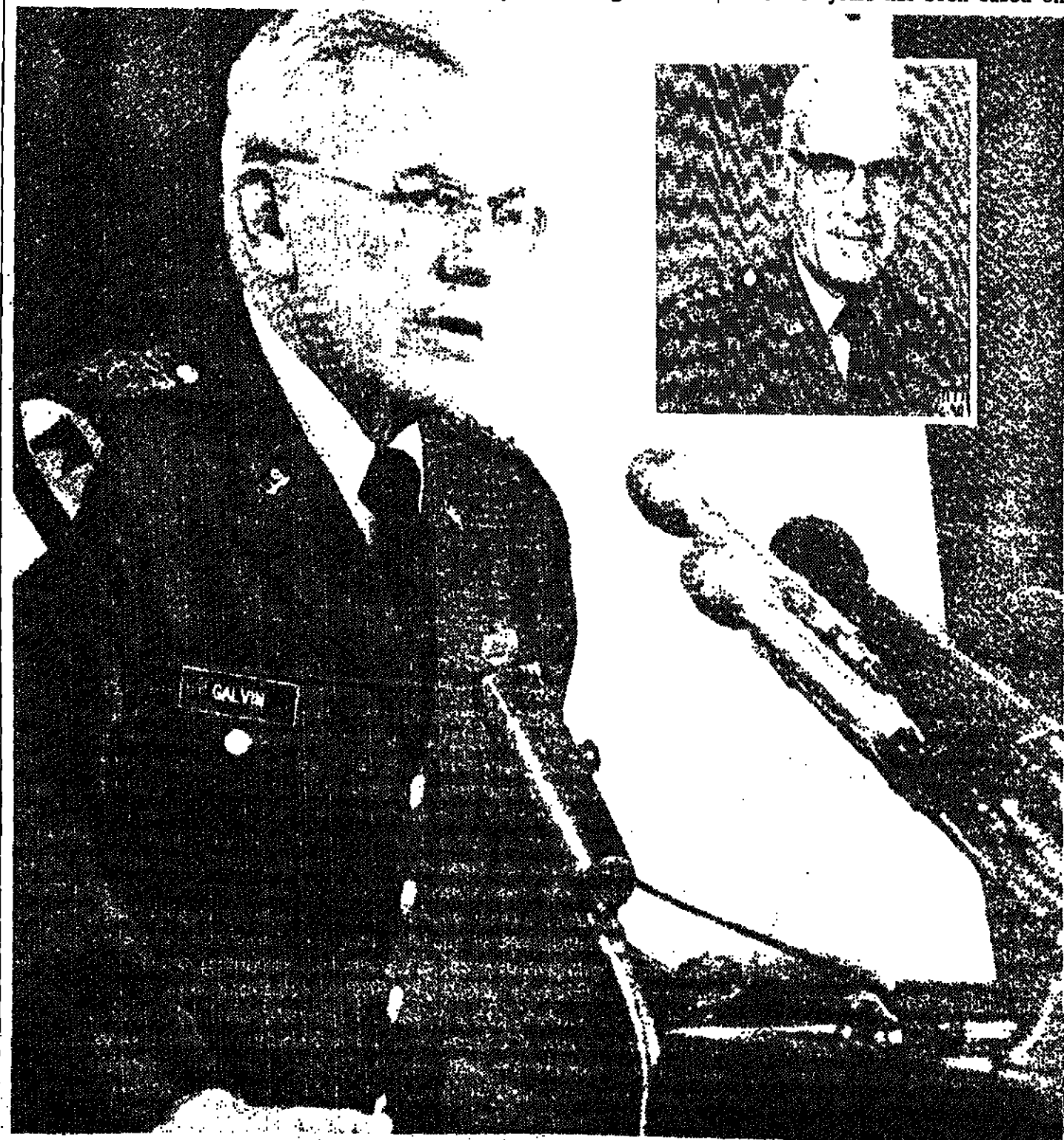
now is considered (but not yet publicly acknowledged) as a serious political and strategic mistake. In general, Easterners were widely suspicious of cooperation between Moscow and Washington over nuclear policy as

embodied in SALT I and II. Under these two treaties, the arsenals of the two superpowers accumulated the most destructive weapons.

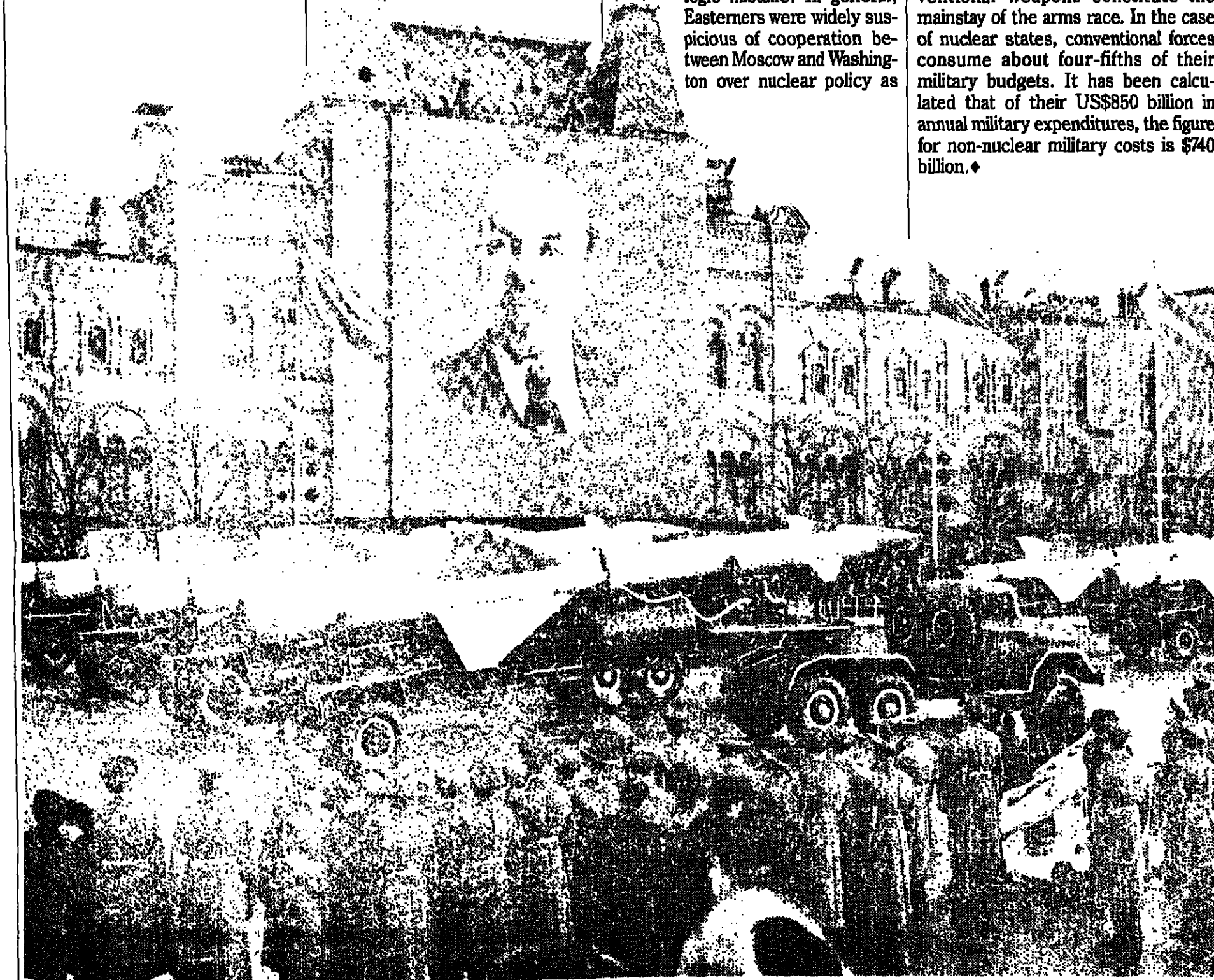
The Warsaw Treaty countries in June 1986 proposed reductions to armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals." Emphasizing that conventional arms constitute a great danger, they proposed a reduction of 100,000 to 150,000 soldiers and tactical offensive aircraft within two years of an agreement.

In the next stage, they suggested cuts of approximately 25 percent in the present levels of NATO and Warsaw Treaty land forces and aircraft, reaching a total of 500,000 soldiers with their arms on each side. To meet NATO's security concerns, the Warsaw Treaty members foresaw not only reliable and effective verification, including on-site inspection, but a system of observation covering forces left after reductions. They also declared their willingness to exchange all necessary data on the total numerical strength of remaining land and air forces.

Although nuclear weapons pose the most ominous danger to mankind, conventional weapons constitute the mainstay of the arms race. In the case of nuclear states, conventional forces consume about four-fifths of their military budgets. It has been calculated that of their US\$850 billion in annual military expenditures, the figure for non-nuclear military costs is \$740 billion.



General John Galvin succeeds General Bernard Rogers (insert) as NATO supreme allied commander this month.



The might of the Warsaw Pact armies worries NATO planners uncertain about eliminating nuclear missiles from Europe.

Search for understanding

For many years I have been searching for an understanding to the problems in South Africa and have felt there is a vacuum in the interpretation of the true problems in that beleaguered country. Without exception, my contacts in South Africa all feel world punishment only retards the hope of eliminating apartheid. The moderate Africans, which include Black leaders such as Mangosuthi Buthelezi, prefer to see history determined by the central sector of the South African political spectrum, rather than radicals on the left.

Moderates in Africa would prefer a

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negotiated eradication of apartheid rather than victory at any cost for the African National Congress (ANC), and have expressed reservations about the ANC's attitude that the only purpose of negotiations should be the total transfer of power on the part of the present government.

There is absolutely no doubt but what South Africa desires peace and progress on the continent of Africa, but the violence being done by the radical revolutionaries is holding up the reforms the South African government is anxious to implement.

Frank Carde
Ajijac, Jalisco, Mexico

Day of Peace

We live in an age in which all the earth's peoples mix, clash and merge. It is increasingly obvious that unless we

learn to live in peace, not only with each other but with the earth that sustains us, then we will almost certainly destroy all life on the planet. Perhaps the time has come to look for new ways in which to seek our common goals.

Too often we tend to think that there is little we, as individuals, can do to change the course of world events. However, there is a beautiful idea whose time has come. A world leader has suggested a "world day of peace" on October 27. A similar idea has been proposed by someone in Texas on December 31.

If for just one day all the soldiers, revolutionaries and even muggers take the day off, and if people around the world take time on this day to pray or meditate or celebrate life in whatever way they choose, it really could make a difference.

Both these events can definitely have a powerful impact on the world if enough people participate. It would be wonderful if the public information media around the world would promote these events and even cooperate with special programming on those days. These can be truly beautiful happenings in which vast amounts of people can participate in a meaningful work.

Humanity has seen too much of our capacity for destruction. Let us experiment with our largely untapped potential for collective constructive action for the sake of peace.

Sari Bond
Caracas, Venezuela

Fiasco annoyance

I must express my annoyance at your handling of the Iranian fiasco.

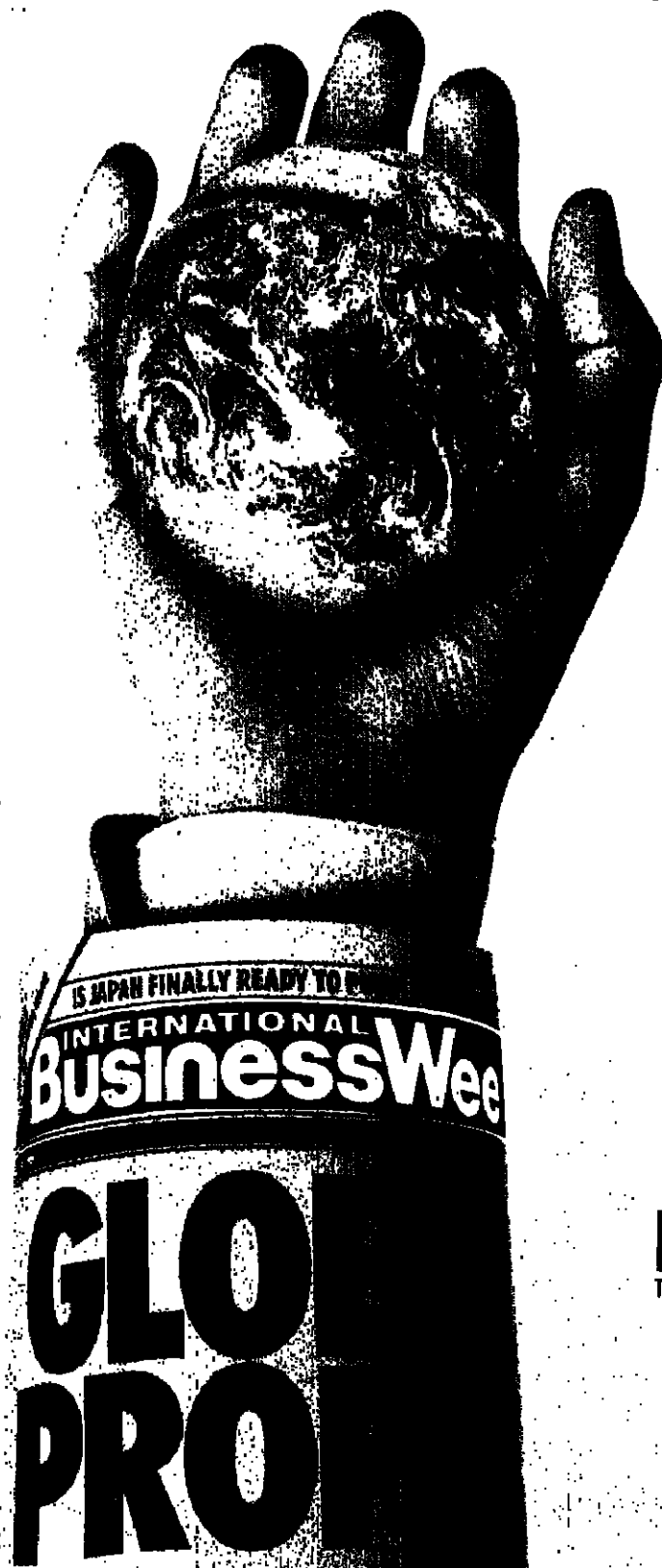
I don't think any good end is served by reputable American sources reviving what my friend Malcolm Muggeridge describes as, "the great liberal death wish," in an excessive orgy of self-inflicted wounds. The Iranian affair is not a crisis, it is not a scandal; it was a serious mistake and your president, like the rest of us, pays for his mistakes. That will not prevent him from finishing what your writer describes as "two of the most successful presidential terms since World War II."

Much more representative of his performance was the role he played in elevating Mrs. Aquino for which, as far as I could see, your writers gave him and his administration no credit.

I have always found that anti-Americanism, which should not be confused with legitimate criticism of American policy, is most obnoxious when it emanates from Americans. I realize you have an independent and international group of writers, but I urge you to stay away as much as possible from this hackneyed and nauseating theme.

Conrad M. Black
Chairman, Argus Corporation
Toronto, Canada

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BY SARAH BRICKMAN

Statistics and reality

Japan's 1986 per capita GNP of US\$16,000 is about equal to that of the United States. Japan has the largest trade surplus of any nation in the world. It is also a leading foreign aid donor.

In 1985 it gave out more official development assistance than any country except the United States. Japan has more direct investments overseas and holds more foreign assets domestically than any other country.

Interestingly enough, according to more recent statistics, Japan, forbidden by its constitution from maintaining military forces, but encouraged by its allies (most notably the United States) to invest in its "self-defense forces," is now the third largest military power in the world.

Japan's self-defense forces, now that they are the third-best financed, have about the same number of tanks

and helmets, hand grenades and guns today as they did when they were the fifth-best financed.

These new statistics and the surprising rankings that they make possible are brought to you by, in large part, year-long currency manipulations by the G-5's central bankers.

Politicians in the United States and Japan, thanks to bankers around the industrialized globe, have statistics for reassuring arguments. But, despite their swank new rankings, one-third of Tokyo's citizens still do not have flush toilets and the effects of living in the world's most indebted nation still afflict US citizens from Washington to Los Angeles.

Women and votes

The New York Times recently reported that there are 10 million more women than men registered to vote in the United States. The figure surprised a number of

the country's politicians who, appropriately, reassessed who had voted for them and who, in turn, they were mandated to vote for.

Women and nature

Spring is traditionally a season, in the northern hemisphere at least, when it is natural for thoughts to turn to birth, fecundity, the earth and, the symbol of it all, Mother Nature. Stress falls on the word "mother."

This spring feminists from militant to milk toast, environmentalists, Greens activists from north and south of the equator, writers, trend-setters and a shaman from the Lapp nation of Norway gathered at the University of Southern California to discuss the spring thoughts that enthralled them.

The men and women who attended the conference debated the role of gender in political action and in securing environmental stability, they discussed who their leaders are and where they are leading the world.

What they decided was that men dominated politics and controlled the environment (which is, they stressed, virtually everywhere given a female persona) using the same methods that they employed in the subjugation of women. They also decided the techniques necessary to gain the road to empowerment are the same techniques developed during the women's "revolution" of the 1960s and 1970s.

Concretely, what came out of the conference was a name for a movement that has been forming for the better part of a decade—"ecofeminism." What ecofeminism will be, according to conference attendees, is something like a political action committee (PAC) to lobby for an increased role for female sensitivity in political decisions throughout the globe.

What gives pause is that ecofeminists are largely moved by US-style women's movement methods. Considering that today in the United States only 2 out of 50

senators and 22 out of 435 members of the House of Representatives are women, ecofeminists might look to other cultures for methodological assistance as well.

**Baby trade**

For sale—eight children. I Ahmed Badr Ta Washeh from Kibbeh offer my eight under-age children for the price of getting them out of Lebanon and giving them the basic necessities of life.

Beirut papers have only recently started to accept advertisements for the sale of children—a trend indicative of what the Lebanese think the future of their war-torn nation holds and illustrative of how open the international baby market is.

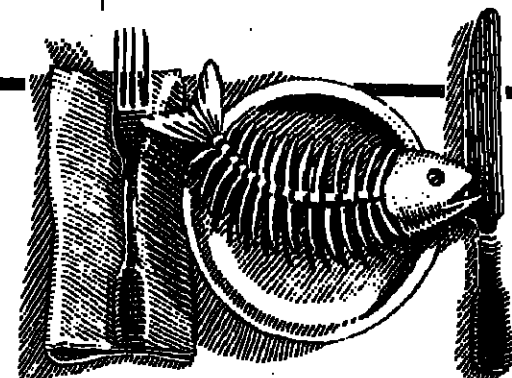
According to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Social Welfare more than 10,000 Sri Lankan babies were flown out of the country by foreign agencies working through local brokers during the 1970s.

In India too, poor pregnant women, desperate for money, are sought out and maternity homes and orphanages are scoured for adoptable babies. Because childless couples in the West, primarily the United States and Sweden, pay up to US\$4,000 for a baby (mothers of the children get perhaps \$35 and some merchandise), the international baby racket booms where there is poverty and hopelessness.

Jobs for poverty

Making jobs is supposed to be good for the economy. But in the first quarter of 1987, two of every three new jobs in the United States were in the lowest-paying sector, says the Council on International and Public Affairs in New York City. The new jobs barely enable workers to earn a living. The council says better paying manufacturing jobs have declined by 20 percent in the decade.

UNDERCURRENT Overkill



The fishing grounds just off the southwestern Philippine island of Palawan provide nearly 60 percent of the seafood consumed in Manila. And the Filipinos eat a lot of fish.

Unfortunately, much of this fish is collected, not fished. Fishermen in Palawan have gotten into the habit of dynamiting and poisoning their rich oceans with cyanide. The former kills or badly stuns a fish so that it can be picked up as it floats on the surface of the water and the latter slows a fish down so that

it can be picked up as it swims by. But both methods of "fishing" are illegal. Both methods are condoned and indeed, some argue, financed by the local military who sell the fisherman the explosives and poison and act as middlemen in the fish trade with Manila.

A fisherman without military patronage finds it difficult to sell fish. A fisherman who does not use the illegal methods finds it difficult in the military-regulated fish market to catch enough

fish using normal methods to make ends meet.

These quick-profit methods do little to provide for the long-term health of the island's fishing industry. Dynamite kills the young fish which would have given birth to next year's catch as well as the old and ready-to-eat fish. Cyanide, too, is an indiscriminate killer.

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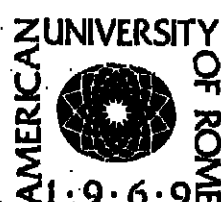
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Gorbachev is the bright, new boy on the bloc

BY CROCKER SNOW, JR.

The diplomats and the analysts, the government leaders and the university dons, the spys and the satraps of the Western world are gradually getting used to the idea that Mikhail Gorbachev is not only a refreshing new man on the Soviet block, but also one to be taken at his word.

His word is that he wants reform—political, economic and social. And the newly emerging conventional consensus is that he means to accomplish it.

"I would implicitly accept his word," Britain's ever vigilant Margaret Thatcher was quoted as saying after her recent two-step with Gorbachev in Moscow.

The people are not as sure as the potentates, however. Judging from a series of random remarks from folks encountered during visits to Western Europe and Southeast Asia last month, public scepticism runs deep.

A well-traveled French housewife in Paris who has lived with her executive

husband in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, São Paulo and New York, asks archly about the general-secretary, "You're a journalist, what do you think?" She answers her own question immediately. "You know I think he's very smart and very clever. Even sort of appealing. But I don't trust him at all. I think he may be even more dangerous than the other Russian leaders, and I'm afraid the West is letting its guard down."

An Austrian pianist en route to Taiwan and China for a series of Tchaikovsky concerts was on the endless Frankfurt to Bangkok flight. She echoes the same thought.

"That Gorbachev is too smart and too clever," she volunteers. "I'm very worried that he's charming the West to sleep. He may want change, but the Russians will never change. I should know."

Why is that? Well, it turns out, our "Austrian" pianist is really Bulgarian. She studied, traveled widely and performed in many parts of the Soviet

Union before fleeing her native Sophia a decade ago.

"The Communist leaders are used to having things their way," she says. "And the Russian workers are used to not working. They know the lesson that being aggressive or doing something new is risky. He can't change this. Either he will fail, or he will change. And either way you have to be very wary and watchful."

A third unsolicited opinion comes from a young, white South African medical student encountered in Hong Kong during his first visit to Asia. His words came almost out of nowhere, an abrupt departure in an otherwise intense conversation about apartheid.

"You know, I get the impression that Americans and Europeans are fascinated with Gorbachev," he said. "It's true? Well, we in South Africa, the conservative Afrikaaners or progressives like my family, are fearful of him. We don't like him and don't trust him. Of course we're not very well informed on world affairs just now in

South Africa, but that's our feeling. Are we wrong?"

And finally in Jakarta, two days before Indonesia's first national election in five years, a prominent local banker, wants suddenly to talk about General-Secretary Gorbachev.

"You journalists are very sensitive to him," he says. "That's as it should be, I suppose. He's a fresh face. But I wonder: Is it really so significant that his wife Raisa has a touch of style? Is it really important that he won't have the birthmark on his forehead rubbed out in official photographs? Or is he merely the Soviet Union's answer to Ronald Reagan, more meaningful for his style and substance?"

And so it goes outside the corridors of power and the journals of learned opinion. Mikhail Gorbachev, it seems, has truly captured the attention and imaginations of peoples around the world. But latent scepticism about Soviet ways and Russian means suggests that he hasn't yet captured their hopes—or their confidence. ♦

COMMENTARY

World rests on UN chief

No optimist, pessimist

BY DAVID MIZRAHI
 in New York, USA

LIKE ATLAS, Javier Perez de Cuéllar carries the whole world on his shoulders. As secretary-general of the United Nations, he attempts to maintain stability, security and peace among the United Nations' 159 member states. His clients range from the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, to the poor, such as Taiwan and the Maldives.

De Cuéllar, born in Lima, Peru, 67 years ago, is a trained lawyer. As a diplomat, he has been posted to France, the United Kingdom, Bolivia, Brazil, the Soviet Union, Poland, and the UN.

He was, in fact, a member of the Peruvian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly at its very first session in 1946 and has watched the UN grow from 51 founding members to a disparate group of 159 nations all demanding that their voices be heard.



UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuéllar proffers a diplomatic hand to Islamic Conference head Habib Chatty.

During a recent interview, the secretary-general confided that he faced daily frustrations.

Yes, he would like a more peaceful world, he said. In fact, he has proposed that the Security Council's five permanent members (the United States, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of

China, the United Kingdom and France) "should consider at some stage an embargo on arms" to various warring factions in developing countries.

The nations that are selling arms are "constantly tempting developing countries with sophisticated arms," he said. "The developing countries) do not

need these weapons. The developing countries should not exceed what is reasonable for their security.

"I did not expect to get an immediate, positive reaction from the five powers. But I think that they have to think about it, and that is one element that has helped to prolong the Iran-Iraq war."

Asked about ending the six-and-a-half-year-old war, de Cuéllar said, "I can tell you, things are moving—of course, rather at a slow pace because it is a complicated problem—but now the situation is a little bit quiet. Sometimes people act when they are under pressure, when there is drama around. But I hope this is not the case."

The most important thing he feels, is that the "five members (of the Security Council) agree on some policy which will bring about an overall solution."

The war is a frustration, as is Lebanon's 12 years of civil war. De Cuéllar asserted that the United Nations did not intervene for two reasons:

"First of all, we have to be asked by the government of Lebanon, and second, we would need the support of the Security Council. At any rate, in the philosophy of the United Nations, the Lebanese crisis is an internal one."

Asked if he was optimistic, he answered, "Well, I am hopeful. Since I am secretary-general I have discovered that the words 'optimist' and 'pessimist' should not be part of my vocabulary." ♦

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Jordan boasts array of tourist attractions

Continued from page 11

Jerusalem via Amman."

Atallah considers this both good and bad. It is good because Jordan benefits from tourism even though it is transit; it is bad because they are not staying long enough.

International Traders, the leading domestic tour operator, is promoting Jordan as a destination for incentive tours, conferences and conventions, the London Financial Times reported. In addition, Italian

and other tour operators are stepping up promotions of the Kingdom. Atallah said agents have been successful in promoting trips to the West Bank via Jordan and have been stressing longer stays in Jordan. The Kingdom, he said, can help by offering more in both facilities and sites.

Jordan's other tourist attractions favourably complement the Biblical sites on the West Bank. The entire country is an open-air museum. Jordan also boasts such sites as Pella, a member city of the Decapolis, Umm Qais, the ancient Greco-Roman city of Gadara

where Jesus is believed to have exorcised demons, and many other sites. Jordan has a number of antiquities spanning every major period of human civilization, including stone age villages, biblical walled towns and archeological remains from both the Bronze and Iron ages, Greco-Roman fortresses and towns, Nabatean temples and cities, Byzantine churches mosaics and villages, Islamic palaces, baths and fortresses, Crusader forts and Ottoman forts and villages.

Jordan also offers unusual attractions including bird-watching

at the Azraq oasis, mineral springs including the one made famous by King Herod and snorkeling and scuba-diving at Aqaba.

Tourism is vital to the Jordanian economy. In 1985, it accounted for 13.4 per cent of Gross National Product; in 1986, it dropped to 11.8 per cent. However, indications are that 1987 will see a recovery. Tourism consequently exceeds the contribution of agriculture and many of the areas of the economy.

Jordan's tourist industry offers two kinds of employment, direct in its various subsectors and indirect through the economic multiplier effect.

By Ahmad Shaker

• A team of Jordanian experts at the Jordan Valley Authority is heading to Damascus shortly to hold talks regarding the establishment of Al Maqarin Dam in the Northern part of the Kingdom.

• The government has decided to establish an environment and pollution-testing laboratory aimed at processing waste water and conducting studies on various air polluting sources. The laboratory will belong to the Royal Scientific Society.

• A JD 250,000 solar experimental station using solar cells is to be established for pumping water from deep wells.

• Studies are underway on the establishment of an artificial lake at Amman National Park on Queen Alia Airport road, a bridge to link both sides of the park, and other facilities including a recreation section for an estimated cost of JD 4 million.

• Dr Hisham Al Khateeb, the minister of energy and mineral resources, received an invitation to visit Romania to hold talks regarding co-operation in crude and shale oil exploration.

• The government is currently contacting North Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, Somalia and Djibouti for the possibility of saving nearly 30,000 job vacancies for Jordanian university graduates and skilled workers. The wages of those workers will be subsidized by a special fund that will be established in the near future.

• Studies are underway on the levying of university fees on foreign and local companies by 1 per cent of total profits, and not net profits. This step is aimed at increasing the size of aid the Jordanian universities receive.

• In order to increase the fees levied on citizens possessing television sets, independent electricity metres are to be installed in every apartment. Submetres will all be replaced by independent ones so that every single apartment will have to pay JD 12 in annual fees.

• Jordanian exports to Romania fell back to JD 7.5 million in 1986 compared to JD 10 million in 1985. Talks are currently held in Bucharest between a Jordanian delegation headed by the minister of planning and Romanian officials for increasing the quantities of phosphates and fertilizers exported to Romania. On the other hand, the value of the kingdom's annual imports from Romania amounts to JD 14.7 million.

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US dollar	.342	.344
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German mark	.185	.187
French franc	.065	.0658
Swiss franc	.218	.224
Dutch guilder	.184	.187
Italian lire (1000)	.2525	.260
Swedish kroner	.052	.054
Saudi riyal	.0911	.0917
Kuwaiti dinar	1.210	1.215
UAE dirham	.0931	.0935
Egyptian pound	.180	.185
Syrian lira	.0103	.0105
Iraqi dinar	.240	.247
Omani riyal	.888	.8925

Source: National Jordan Exchange Company

Dollar lower,
gold stronger

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar opened lower in quiet trading on European markets Wednesday after gains of recent days were terminated by profit-taking and rumours of intervention by Central banks. Meanwhile, gold was strengthened.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar fell 0.65 yen to a closing 145.95 yen after climbing to an 11-week high. Later, in London, it was quoted at 144.65 yen.

The dollar came off its recent highs Tuesday night as dealers cashed in on its gains, anticipating a technical fall. The currency also was weakened by reports, still not confirmed, that the US federal reserve and other central banks sold dollars Tuesday.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Tuesday:

1.8245 West German Marks, down from 1.8370
1.5125 Swiss Francs, down from 1.5280
6.0950 French Francs, down from 6.1335
2.0633 Dutch Guilders, down from 2.0670
1,320.50 Italian Lire, down from 1,324.50
1.3340 Canadian Dollars, down from 1.3342

In London, the British pound rose and was quoted at \$1.6145, compared with 1.5985 Tuesday.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$441.00 a troy ounce, compared with late Tuesday's 441.50. At mid-morning Wednesday, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$443.00.

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Algeria spends
for roads

WASHINGTON — Algeria will use a World Bank loan of \$120 million to rehabilitate roads and improve the efficiency of road maintenance and transport operations. Another \$94 million Bank loan will help finance improvements on irrigation systems in the Chellif river basin.

The first project will help finance pavement strengthening on about 400 kilometres of primary roads, and a two-year pilot programme of road maintenance in which competitive bidding for contracts will be introduced.

The project is expected to reduce road-user costs and prolong the life of paved roads. The government will provide additional financing for the \$287 million project.

The second project addressed the problem of low agricultural productivity by upgrading irrigation systems in the Chellif river basin. The basin is the largest in the country and has the most potential for irrigation development.

The project has three objectives. At the local level, it seeks to safeguard and improve farmers' incomes and to provide basic farming infrastructure. At the sector level, new institutional arrangements will be developed and implemented to ensure adequate water management, operation and maintenance of the river basin.

At the national level, it will develop the irrigation potential in the country by expanding the large irrigation areas.

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Shares dwindle
dominates dealings

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

SHARE PRICES have remarkably dwindled. Meanwhile, a major deal involving the shares of The Jordan Finance House was made, allowing the banking sector to dominate almost one third of the overall dealings. Demand for major industrial companies' shares started to plummet.

1,825,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 2,625,000 divided among 2150 contracts, a decrease of 11 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average came to JD 505,000 with a deviation of 29.7 per cent or 5.9 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating stability at the market.

The share of 68 companies were handled from which 18 companies gained including:

1- Jordan Phosphate Mines Co	closing at JD 2.100 up from JD 1.920
2- Jordan Finance House	closing at JD .950 up from JD .900

33 companies lost including:

1- Al Inma For Investments and Financial Facilities	closing at JD .750 down from JD 1.000
2- International Chemical Industries	closing at JD .850 down from JD .930
3- The Mineral Himmah	closing at JD .800 down from JD 1.000
4- Amman-Cairo Bank	closing at JD 19.600 down from JD 22.300
5- Textiles Factories	closing at JD .850 down from JD .920

17 Companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 57,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 19,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sector according to the following percentages:

Sectors	Market share	Last week's share
Bank	35.3%	23.4%
Industry	59.4%	70.5%
Services	.5%	.8%
Insurance	4.8%	5.3%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded, by sector

	Share of sector	Share of market
Banks (out of 21 traded)		
1- Jordan Finance House	64.1%	22.6%
Industrials (out of 29 traded)		
1- Jordan Silvochemicals Co.	21.9%	13%
2- Arab Aluminium Industry	34.2%	20.3%
3- Textiles Factories	9.2%	5.5%
4- National Steel Industry	9.1%	5.4%
5- Intermediary Petrochemical Industries	6.8%	3.9%
Services (out of 9 traded)		
1- Jordan Electricity Co.	37.9%	2%
Insurance (out of 10 traded)		
1- Jordan French Insurance Co.	67.6%	3.2%

WEEKLY AVERAGE

Date	Bank	Insurance	Services	Industrials	Average
16-6	-5%	-0.1%	+7%	+3%	zero
17-6	+1%	+4%	+2.2%	+1.1%	+7%
20-6	-1.1%	-1.3%	-3.8%	-2%	-1.8%
21-6	+1%	+5%	-7%	-9%	-4%
22-6	-9%	-3%	+3%	-1.3%	-6%
Total					-2.4%

Fading memories for a dwindling band

By Simon Ingram
Special to The Star

ALGIERS — Every Friday lunch-time, a group of elderly Europeans gather in a large country house on the outskirts of Algiers. Over tall glasses of anisette, followed by lunch and a game of cards, conversation frequently gives way to reminiscence. Even more so these days, because memories are be-

ing logged by preparations under way for celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Algerian independence.

For most Algerians, 5 July will be a day to remember the sacrifices of the eight-year war of liberation against French colonial rule, a conflict which cost an estimated one million lives, and to look back on the undoubted

achievements since the war ended.

But for the last remaining European settlers in Algeria, the occasion will bring back decidedly mixed feelings.

The vast majority of the 'pieds noirs', as they were known, fled back to Europe in 1962, fearful of the fate that would await them if they stayed on in newly-independent

Algeria. Today, no more than 3,000 remain: the descendants of settler families from Spain, Italy and Malta as well as France. Most have retained the nationality of their ancestors, and the feeling is growing among them that the time has finally come to leave.

Paul Ramage is one of the most prominent members of the dwindling community. His family's links with Algeria go back to 1840, when his great-grandfather arrived from France in the first wave of European settlement after the country's conquest by soldiers of Charles X. The Ramage family soon established themselves as prosperous landowners in the fertile coastal belt east of Algiers.

They were not as well off as some of the grander 'pieds noirs', families like the Altairacs and Bor-gaards, who owned huge estates, factories and shipping lines, and came to wield immense economic and political influence under French colonial rule. But life for the Ramages, as for other middle-class European settlers, was nonetheless comfortable. "It beat California any day," Ramage, now 74, remembered with a smile.

However, the lifestyle kept them well apart from the far more numerous — and much poorer — Muslim population. The Europeans were content to employ native Algerians as labourers and domestic servants, but kept the political and economic power very much to themselves. Social and cultural contacts between the two communities were minimal. Ramage and his wife Isabelle studied Spanish and Latin at the local 'lycee', but still speak no Arabic even today.

The gulf between the 'pieds noirs' and the local population meant that the struggle for independence, when it came, was particularly savage and uncompromising. When the war began in 1954, Ramage was a lawyer with a flourishing business. As the atrocities committed by both sides polarized political sympathies, he was one of the few voices calling for compromise.

In the final stages, as General Charles de Gaulle prepared to relinquish French control of Algeria, Ramage was one of 16 European deputies who joined a transitional assembly set up shortly before independence. He and his family were the target of an assassination attempt carried out, he says, by the Organization Armee Secrete (OAS), which fought a last-ditch terrorist campaign to preserve French rule.

That experience made him all the more determined to stay on in the country instead of joining the

estimated one million other settlers who fled back to Europe in early 1962.

His decision seemed vindicated by the terms of the Evian Accords signed by the French and Algerian leaders, which appeared to guarantee compensation to the 'pieds noirs' for property confiscated from them. However, the accords remained for the most part a dead letter, and successive French governments have failed to resolve the problem of compensation. According to the 'pieds noirs', the few cases that have been settled over the years have provided the former European owners with far less than the value of the property they lost.

Bitterness at the way the Paris government has treated them is keenly felt in 'pied noir' circles. Today, people like Ramage have more or less given up hope of ever getting back what they believe is owed to them. Most are in their 70s and want to spend the remainder of their days with the children who left them years ago for new lives in France or elsewhere. Moreover, there are day-to-day problems of life in Algeria, where the fall in oil prices has led to an economic recession.

Apart from shortages of many staple supplies such as coffee and cooking oil, Ramage and his wife have to cope with life on the seventh floor of an apartment block in central Algiers which has been cut off from the water mains since last September. Ramage is sprightly for his age, but even he finds heaving jerrycans of water up seven flights of stairs when the elevator breaks down is becoming too much.

"The country is going to the dogs," he said. "There's nothing here for us now." According to Ramage, others of his generation now feel the same way. Figures released by the French consulate show a steady increase in the number of residents with French nationality leaving Algeria for good. Their motives vary, but the majority say they want to be nearer their families and closer to better health care facilities in their old age.

Simon Ingram is a journalist and broadcaster based in Tunisia who covers North African issues for the international media.

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Mervyn Rees is managing editor of the Johannesburg based Byline Africa features services.

President Botha with the late Samora Machel

Building bridges to woo Africa

As Western governments increasingly treat South Africa as a pariah, Pretoria is seeking closer diplomatic and trade links with its neighbours. Despite overt hostility from most African governments, South African officials claim they have had surprising success behind the scenes.

By Mervyn Rees
Special to The Star

PRETORIA — As its former friends in the West become increasingly antagonistic, South Africa is turning more and more to black Africa for trade and future political support. Pretoria's overtures are proving surprisingly successful, officials claim, even though overt hostility from African governments has reached unprecedented levels.

Behind the scenes, there is claimed to be not only a dramatic increase in trade, but a growing acceptance of South African aid and technology. The diplomatic campaign appears to be a revival, though in different form, of the "outward" policy in Africa launched by the government in the 1970s, but dropped when it failed to win significant response.

With the European Community and the United States imposing sanctions, and relations with Britain wearing ever thinner, Pretoria's diplomatic and trade overtures have dwindled in the past few years. Its response has been in part to exploit South Africa's ability to meet Africa's need for funds and technology for development, cheap food and consumer goods.

"For too long we have looked over the heads of our African neighbours to the leaders of Western nations in trying to achieve solutions to our problems," said Director-General of Foreign Affairs Neil van Heerden in a recent interview with the "Washington Times". Van Heerden said the "dramatic" increase in South Africa's trade ties with Africa "has led us to

realize where our priorities lie. The emphasis of our diplomatic effort is now very much concentrated on Africa."

Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha outlined a similar approach last October in Maseru when he signed the Lesotho Highlands water project treaty. He urged African states to join with South Africa to "determine our own future" instead of allowing the Americans, Europeans and Soviets to do it for them.

In addition to its substantial open trade with Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and other so-called front-line states, South Africa is reported to have secret dealings of one kind or another with at least 40 of the 51 black African countries. To avoid embarrassing them and thereby jeopardizing the links, Pretoria co-operates in keeping the dealings secret. As a result, the truth of the claims cannot be tested, either in terms of trade or aid.

According to Van Heerden, however, South Africa is involved in more than 300 projects, costing more than \$25 million, in about a dozen African countries. He said these included three experimental cattle ranches in countries "far north of here" where a cattle breed suited to tropical Africa is being developed. While Pretoria is trying to build secret bridges to Africa, Western countries are pushing large amounts of aid into neighbouring states in an effort to reduce South Africa's influence over them.

The aid effort is aimed largely at reducing the front-

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Tension diffused

THE RAPID moves taken by several Arab Gulf states to settle the power struggle in the Sharjah Emirate seem to have succeeded in terminating the crisis which threatened stability, not only in the tiny state, but also in the whole United Arab Emirates of which Sharjah is a member.

The success of the mediation efforts exerted by the UAE president and other Gulf leaders is a delightful development because it shows the determination, statesmanship and awareness of the need to shoulder one's responsibility when Pan-Arab interests are at stake.

The coup engineered by Sheikh Abdel Aziz against his brother Sheikh Sultan was an extremely regrettable incident that occurred at a time when the Gulf region needed stability and unity to cope with the many challenges arising from the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, Iranian threats against shipping in the Hormuz waterway and superpower intervention. Had it been successful, the coup would have shattered unity and set a very dangerous precedence in the region.

The awareness of these hazards was apparently what prompted the Gulf leaders to intervene to reinstate Sheikh Sultan so as to contain the crisis. But despite that, further efforts are still needed to prevent a recurrence of the family feud which had triggered the power struggle between the two brothers. For, it is still uncertain if the coup leader has accepted the compromise which gave him the post of the Crown Prince but with limited powers. The crisis thus could erupt again unless close watch is maintained by the UAE president and other Gulf leaders to ensure that stable conditions would prevail so that full and final reconciliation is achieved.

Sharjah is so small an Emirate that many may think that whatever happens in it should not be taken so seriously. They are mistaken because any Arab territory, no matter how small, must be treated as a cherished part of the Arab homeland for whose unity successive Arab generations strove for and offered enormous sacrifices.

Negative forces

LEBANON IS yet to get over the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami only to have a more complex issue dropped on its lap. This time, it is not an assassination bid; neither is it a flare up in the sectarian hostilities. Rather, now it is groups of kidnappers who are at work to add more fuel to the fire of Lebanon's destabilization and anarchy. It is as if there is an agreed conspiracy among some negative forces to make sure nothing ever goes right in war-torn Lebanon.

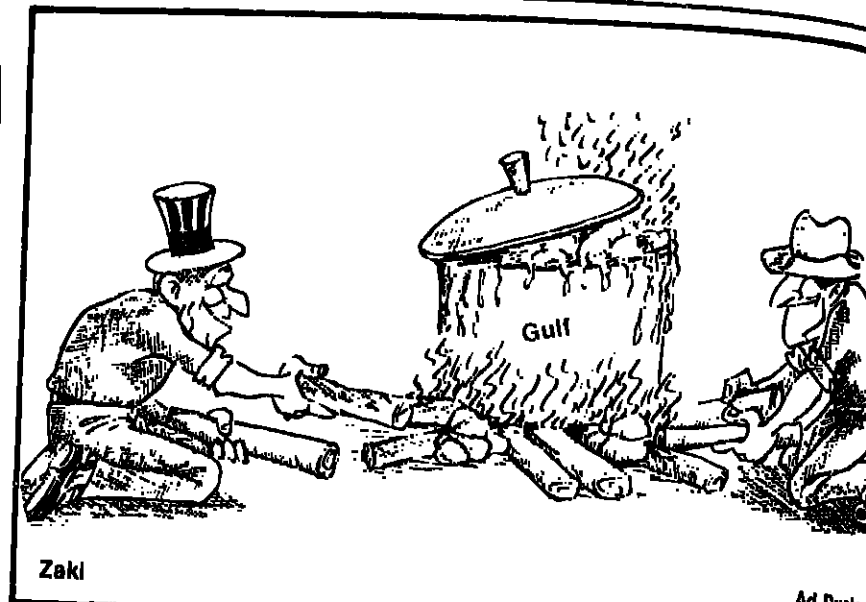
The circumstances surrounding Karami's death has been dealt a telling blow by the resignation of the judicial official in charge of investigations. However, accusing fingers are being pointed at foreign powers with vested interests in the Lebanese crisis.

Much as we are still shocked by Karami's demise, it is the aftermath with the tendency to seize innocent people off the streets of Beirut which is particularly worrying. So far, many innocent citizens and foreign nationals have fallen prey to the devious schemes of the kidnappers. When the deployment of the Syrian troops took off, we felt negative and rascally behaviour in Lebanon was to be a thing of the past.

The spates of kidnapping clearly taunt Syrian authority and their role in Lebanon. It completely undermines attempts to drive lawlessness from the society and introduce some form of sanity. We therefore greatly concur with the uncompromising stand adopted by the Syrians. So far, it appears the tough attitude of the Syrian forces has eventually paid dividends. The kidnappers have but to exert more pressure until not only the American journalist Mr. Glass, but all others being held against their desire are released without any further delay.

No country has ever been known to develop to the fullest its potentialities amidst anarchy and chaos. If the practice of arbitrary seizure of people is not quickly arrested, Lebanon could be witness to another round of communal destruction and then suffer a major setback to its bid for national unity and reconstruction.

As we have reiterated on many occasions, no matter the member of foreign intervention attempts, Lebanon's healing of its reconciliation wounds rests solely with the Lebanese.



Protection of Kuwaiti tankers — new pro-Iraqi tilt

By Dana Adams Schmidt
Star Washington correspondent

THE HEADLINE doesn't make sense to ordinary people, but that is the way the United States Middle East policy is just now.

Let's try to make sense by looking at the two incidents:

On 17 May, an Iraqi jet, a French-built F-1, made maximum use of its range flying south close to the Saudi coast until it reached a point north of Bahrain when it suddenly veered north and fired two French Exocet missiles — one of them a dud — at the American frigate 'Stark'. The first missile hit on the port side, below the bridge area where many of the crew were resting. Thirty-seven died.

The Iraqis say it was a mistake. The pilot thought he was firing at a tanker. The Exocet range is considerable so that the target is not usually immediately visible, but appears as a blip on a radar screen. But many Iraqis and others believe that the pilot may have been a rogue eager to avenge Iraqi killed by American-made anti-aircraft guns fired by Iranians.

President Reagan got two letters of apology from Iraqi President Hussein. And a US mission headed by an American rear-admiral got obsequious treatment in Baghdad. But it did not get its request to interview the pilot of the F-1.

Several months before all this happened, the Kuwaitis had sent messages, first to the Soviet Union, then to the United States, proposing that the Soviet Union beflag with the hammer and sickle, five Kuwaiti tankers, and that the United States beflag six.

This was apparently an attempt by the Kuwaitis to get a joint super-power protection for half of its total tanker fleet of 22. It may have also been a probe to see whether the super-powers could be enlisted in a joint effort to end the Iran-Iraq war in which the combatants have been concentrating tanker-borne oil lifelines. Of the 30 ships attacked by Iran since last September, 25 were on their way to or from Kuwait.

At first, the United States reaction to this proposal was wan. The coast guard decided to send the Kuwaitis some pamphlets about its functions. But then came word that the Russians had agreed to their side of the bargain and were in fact preparing to send a delegation to sign an agreement in Kuwait. It didn't take long for the Defence and State Departments and the president to decide six, but all 11 Kuwaiti tankers. Kuwait, which secretly prefers to deal with Americans, immediately agreed.

That's where we are now. A Defence Department mission of four has flown to Kuwait to work out such technicalities as safety arrangements on the Chesapeake Shipping Inc. has undertaken to assume ownership — presumably strictly a technical affair involving no exchange of money would be reversed when the Gulf war is over. But unfortunately, the story does not end there.

Some US Senators and Representatives are upset. They say this is a sure way to get the United States into the Gulf war.

They say Iranian jets and shore batteries and power boats will surely hit American-protected ships. Then what? Americans will hit back at the attacking craft, at the attacking ships and at the bases.

Maybe more.

Before you knew it the United States might be in effect at war with Iran. But war powers act requires that the president consult Congress before taking a step that could get the United States into war. Administration spokesmen say this is the things should go because the United States is a while back, in the Iran-contra affair, to befriend Iranians, but failed. The US States would like to compensate the Iraqis for its earlier provision of arms to Iran.

But the critics say Congress will be head off this enterprise. Never mind if it is Arab feelings. The argument is that the Executive branch has no right to thrust United States in this way into danger of involvement in war. While it seems likely the US will befriend the Kuwait tankers, the outcome is by no means certain.

Comparison is inevitable with the 1981 when Britain was preparing to get out of the Gulf militarily and had formally declared the independence of Kuwait. The British waited in an appreciative response said that in time of need the world of course turn to Britain for protection. This riled the Baathist regime in Baghdad. Kuwait, so the Iraqis pronounced, was run as a part of the province of Basra in Ottoman Turkish times and is therefore really now part of Iraq.

The British responded vigorously with aircraft carrier, marines, RAF, and troops. They actually landed in Kuwait and stayed for months. The Iraqis backed down. What the Iraqis backed down now? The religious element in the Iranian campaign makes it seem unlikely. The Iraqis are said to have acquired a long range 'Chinese silkworm' missile which they have not yet used. It might cover the Hormuz Straits, or it might try to fire from the border into Baghdad.

What the Iraqis say is that both super-powers should get out of the Gulf. The United States is obviously moving in the opposite direction. It has decided to reinforce its standing Gulf force of six ships with a ship especially equipped for defence against air attack, and it has decided to reinforce the Indian Ocean task force which usually has one aircraft carrier by bringing up a second. Britain too, has decided to reinforce its usual Gulf force of a destroyer and two frigates.

It's not that America has fallen in love with the Iraqi regime, but that it fears the possible consequences of Iranian success in this war. Not only might they take control of Iraq and its considerable oil resources but pro-Khomeini fundamentalists or opportunists might try to take over in the Gulf States.

In one of his first comments on the Gulf crisis, President Reagan said in response to a question about the danger of getting the United States into war: 'I do not know how it could possibly start... but if fired upon, we will fire back.' That just about summarizes the danger.

Cautious defence build-up

By Russell Warren Howe
Special to The Star

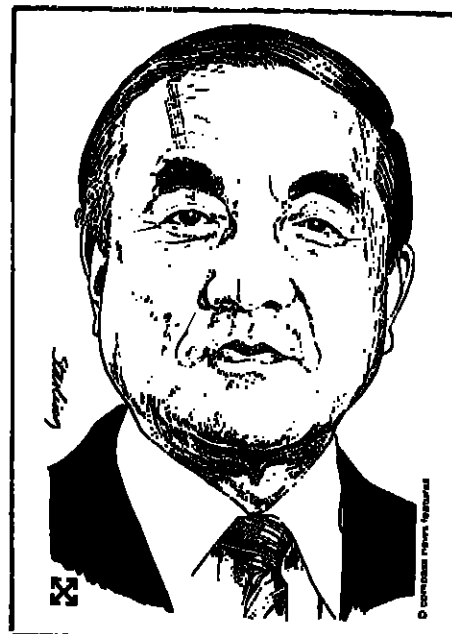
TOKYO — Japan now has the third largest naval fleet in Asian waters behind the Soviet Union and China, but remains cautious about increasing defence expenditure because of the population's opposition to most things military. The emphasis on maritime defence is understandable. Europe and Asia are really one continent, arbitrarily divided by European cartographers at the Ural and the Bosphorus, with the British Isles at one end and the Japanese islands at the other. Britain, with a million-tonne, 480-ship navy, comes third worldwide after the superpowers. Japan's fleet now stands at 165 ships of 255,000 tonnes — well short of China's 1,730 ships and 880,000 tonnes or the Soviet Union's 2,910 ships and 6,810,000 tonnes. Of the latter, 840 ships are deployed in the Pacific, including some based in Vietnam. But the present (1986-90) period of the 15-year Japanese defence build-up to 1995 will see 35 more ships added to its fleet.

The main Soviet military expansion in recent years has been in the Pacific area, where Moscow now has 162 SS-20 surface-to-surface missiles and 85 long-range Backfire bombers. It had none of either a decade ago. The Japanese islands overlook all the Soviet Pacific fleet's accesses to the open ocean. Since the Nakasone government agreed four years ago to be responsible for its own maritime defence up to 1,000 nautical miles from the coast, considerable investment has gone into making this a reality.

As well as new ships, the present five-year plan will see the addition of 128 new combat aircraft, including 66 of Japan's own MH-53E shipborne anti-submarine helicopters.

The Soviet Union, however, keeps 2,400 combat aircraft in the region and 41 army divisions, compared with Japan's 350 combat aircraft, rising to 478 by the end of the decade, and 12 divisions. Because of this imbalance and because Japan has renounced the possession, fabrication or stocking of nuclear weapons on its soil, Tokyo remains dependent on the American 'umbrella'.

Headlines were made earlier this year when Japan broke a symbolic barrier by allocating more than one per cent of its GNP to its 1987 defence budget. The fraction rose from 0.88 per cent to 1.04 per cent. But this was not because of boosted expenditure.



Mr Nakasone

ditures — It was caused by a failure to reach projected GNP growth.

Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, an Imperial Navy lieutenant in World War II, would like to respond to Washington's urgings that Japan consecrate more of its economy to defence. He has spoken of an 'increasingly harsh military situation' in the region, compared with stirrings of détente in Europe. But he faces formidable antipathy to militarism from the public. The constitution adopted during the 'MacArthur occupation' espouses pacifism as a national ideal. Under article 9, the Japanese renounce war, preparations for war or the 'right of belligerence'.

The constitution requires civilian control of the military.

The heavy US presence — 28,000 Marines, 2,400 soldiers, 7,400 shore-based naval personnel and 16,000 airmen — was originally intended in part to discourage Japanese rearmament. Although by far the largest American contingent is on the extreme southern island of Okinawa, in the Ryukyu chain, the US forward air base at Misawa, within a few minutes' flying time of Russia's Sakhalin island, is being expanded. Now the Nakasone government is looking toward eventual self-reliance and to the same arms-manufacturing independence possessed by smaller powers such as

France, West Germany and Britain.

It is something of an anomaly that a country which once ruled millions of square miles of Asia could now be defeated in war by North Korea, which has only one seventh of Japan's population and one fifteenth of its per capita income. But restoring public interest in the military is difficult. Japan's servicemen are all volunteers. There are no reserve officer training corps in the universities because the latter find the idea unacceptable.

The cutting edge of Japan's defence, apart from the navy, is four squadrons of F-15s and a squadron of E-2C Hawkeye radar control planes. On land, 26 fixed radar sites and 200 batteries of Hawk surface-to-air missiles stand guard, and there has been a heavy stress on electronic warfare, including intelligence-gathering. Japan makes its own heavy battle tanks — about 530 at last count, with 248 more due in the present five-year build-up — and is developing its own strike fighter. It already makes other combat and non-combat military aircraft.

Japan has more than twice the population of either France, West Germany or Britain. Its GNP of over \$2 trillion — partly artificial because of the current low value of the dollar — is three times West Germany's, four times France's and nearly five times Britain's. Japanese per capita income (again, rather artificial at present) of \$18,550 is surpassed in the West only by Sweden, Luxembourg and Switzerland. It is ahead of West Germany's and the United States. However, only about half of one per cent of its industrial economy is accounted for by defence.

Its ground forces of 156,000 hardly compare with China's three million, Russia's two million, India's 1.1 million, Vietnam's one million, the United States 780,000, North Korea's 750,000, South Korea's 520,000 or even Syria's 270,000. These figures reflect the fact that the world's largest concentration of forces is in Asia (including those of the Soviet Union). These figures reflect the fact that the world's largest concentration of forces is in Asia (including those of the Soviet Union). These figures reflect the fact that the world's largest concentration of forces is in Asia (including those of the Soviet Union).

Russell Warren Howe is a Washington-based author and journalist who travels frequently in Asia.



Nigeria — constitutional talks

1990 IS the year that Nigeria's ruling Military Council promised to return the country to a civilian government. That year may seem a long way off, but the present constitutional talks taking place in Abuja, the future capital of Nigeria, prove the seriousness with which the military regime considers the political development of their nation.

The head of state, General Babangida is reputed to be a 'soldier's soldier', but in sitting down to review and discuss the recommendations presented by a committee formed to sample the views and ideas of all Nigerians on the type of constitution they prefer, he is indeed going to grapple with very sensitive and complex topics.

If the president falters or does not succeed in formulating a political policy to suit the aspirations of his countrymen, few will blame him. For it is a task, which, since Nigeria's self-rule in 1960, has challenged the wits of political experts.

The whole issue is involved entirely with the complex and diverse nature of this huge African nation with a population of over 100 million people.

In the first place, Nigeria has a sensitive ethnic mosaic, which, despite the different tribal groupings, still revolves around the Hausa-Fulani-Muslim clique in the northern states, the Yoruba in the west and the Ibo in the east. Superficially, Nigerians often boast of national unity, but beneath the seemingly calm political surface, intolerance and great mistrust reigns.

Nigerian political analysts often tend to dismiss this tribal issue, but on numerous occasions, the sharp differences have led to clashes with fatal consequences. A poignant example is the secession bid by a group of eastern army officers in an attempt to break the domination of the Hausa-Fulani rule. What resulted was an unnecessary three-year civil war.

Of equal importance in the constitutional issue is the question of creating more states. Nigeria, like the US, practises a federal form of government: it started with three states; evolved into 12 and later on became a nation of 19 states. Now, it is aiming at 24 states. Theoretically, it sounds feasible to divide such a huge nation into small states. But under a civilian administration, the cost of maintaining governors, state legislatures assemblies is quite prohibitive.

In their attempts at drawing a new constitution, President Babangida and his colleagues face an uphill task. Absurdities like the one which occurred in 1979 where a presidential candidate sued ex-President Haj Shehu Shagari for not winning in 13 of the 19 states before being declared a president should be avoided.

Being Africa's most populous nation, Nigeria certainly has a big role to play in continental affairs. With its huge economic potentialities and wealth, it could serve as a beacon to other African countries. However, an important ingredient to enable it achieve its aims is political tranquility.

Richard S. Ehrlich is a freelance journalist who specializes in Asian affairs.

Who'll succeed embattled Jayewardene?

By Richard S. Ehrlich
Special to The Star

COLOMBO — When President Junius R Jayewardene announced he might have to cancel Sri Lanka's 1989 presidential election because of the civil war, his main political opponent quickly threatened he would be ousted like Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines if he becomes 'anti-democratic'.

'The government is threatening to postpone elections in the name of democracy,' opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike told supporters of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) at a recent rally. 'The day people will reach the end of their patience is not far away. Then what befell Marcos will overtake the leaders of this government too,' warned Bandaranaike, who became the world's first woman prime minister in 1980, ruling for four years and then held office again from 1970-77.

But 71-year-old 'Mrs B' — as she is known throughout this island country — is not the only person seen as a possible candidate to succeed the embattled Jayewardene, now 80 and maintaining a tenuous hold on power in his second term as president.

Three powerful men have arisen within the president's own government and are being closely watched by the electorate.

One is the military-backed National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, who is leading the war against ethnic Tamil Hindu rebels fighting for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka. The others are Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, who is seen by Western diplomats as able to win public support by giving away village housing, and Land Minister Gamani Disenayake, who commands support among many members

of parliament.

Jayewardene, who became president in 1978, is burdened by failure to end the ethnic war which has left thousands dead during more than a decade of escalating bloodshed. He also has failed to stem rising inflation, unemployment and other economic problems caused partly by the war, partly by the island's dependence on international markets. To add to his troubles, he has been powerless to prevent neighbouring India bowdlerising Sri Lankan air space to drop relief supplies to Tamil civilians in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

A former Supreme Court lawyer, Jayewardene went into politics in the 1940s to help free his country, then known as Ceylon, from British colonial rule.

As he rose to power, he held successively the finance, defence and foreign portfolios. In 1977, his United National Party came to power with an overwhelming majority. Jayewardene, who became prime minister, changed the constitution in 1978 to become the country's first executive president. After amending the constitution to permit an early poll, he was re-elected in 1982 with 53 per cent of the popular vote and began his current six-year term on 4 February, 1983.

The next election is scheduled for 1989, but Jayewardene — who cannot be re-elected under the present constitution — stunned the nation earlier this year by claiming polls might have to be cancelled and his rule extended by referendum because the war might make free elections impossible.

Athulathmudali is widely seen as the next likely leader because he is regarded as untainted by corruption. He is a powerful speaker and a clever moderate who can

also offer tough action to appease hawkish Sinhalese demanding a show of military strength against the rebels. Asked if he has anyone to succeed Athulathmudali, Oxford-educated Athulathmudali was recently quoted as saying, 'I have no aspirations. I'd like to stay in politics. It depends on the constitution of the United National Party. But I'm not that old to be that much in a hurry.'

Western diplomats say Athulathmudali has an intriguing ability to lead the military against the separatists yet simultaneously project a moderate image. 'He's gung-ho, opportunistic and clever,' said one observer. Said another, 'He's one of the few senior leaders who identifies the source of the war as the past 30 to 40 years of inequality in language and education policies by Sinhalese against Tamils. On the other hand, he is prepared to make statements to serve his own purpose like any politician. But I think he has more of the longer-term interests of the nation at heart. He's not as hard-line as some people feel.'

Prime Minister Premadasa, meanwhile, is attracting attention for his weekly appearances in the government-controlled media giving away plots of land, addressing crowds and travelling widely across the island. 'Premadasa has a million houses to give away,' said one Western diplomat, referring to the premier's village housing scheme. 'He's a terrific organizer and speaks with a wide grass-roots following. Every day for him is a day at the hustings.'

The case of Arabistan (Khuzistan)

By Pascal B. Karmy
Special to The Star

PEOPLE ARE inclined to forget that the Persians (as the Iranians were previously called) held a deep grudge against the Arabs since their defeat and the occupation of Persia by the Arabs during the Muslim Arab conquest in the 7th century AD.

History tells us that the second Khaliph Umar Ibn Al Khattab appointed Sa'ad Ibn Abi Waqqas as commander in chief and sent him at the head of forces to Iraq.

Sa'ad with his ten thousand men attacked in May 637 AD the Persian Rustan, the administrator of the Persian empire, at Al Qadi-siyya not far from Al Hira. Rustan was killed and the large Sasanid army routed in panic.

The next objective for the Arab commander in chief was Ctesiphon, the Persian capital known by the Arabs as Al Made'in. Sa'ad crossed the Tigris River and swiftly headed for the capital which he entered triumphantly in June 637 AD. Its garrison together with the Persian emperor deserted it.

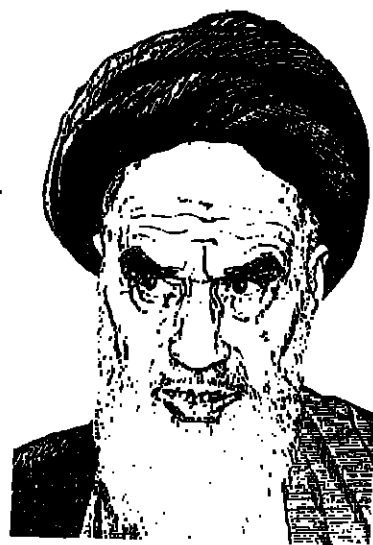
Arabistan called by the Persians as Khuzistan, was occupied in 640 AD. The Arabs occupied Istakhr (Persepolis) the chief city of Persia and then the province of Khuzistan in 650 AD.

During the Arab rule, Arabistan remained a part of and subject to Iraq. To cut a long history short, the Ottoman empire expanded its rule in 1546 to the Arab countries including Basra region. However Arabistan passed under the domination of the Portuguese up to 1652, after which it became the bone of contention between Britain and Holland.

Geography of Arabistan

The Iraq-Iran conflict is mainly on Arabistan. All along its history, and although it is an Arab territory, Arabistan was occupied, annexed and partitioned by many foreign powers. Arabistan is situated in the south-east of Iraq. In the north and the east there is the chain of Zagros mountains. In the west Arabistan is next to the two Iraqi provinces of Basrah and Misan. South of Arabistan is the Arabian Gulf. The area of Arabistan is about 185,000 sq km.

In 1938 Iran annexed to its southern province a part of Arabistan. The population count about 4 million inhabitants. They are Arab tribes which lived there long before the advent of Islam. In Arabic this region is known also by the



Ayatollah Khomeini

name of al-Ahwaz and later the Persians called it Khuzistan.

However, under the Persian Saffawid dynasty this region was known by the name of Arabistan referring to its Arab inhabitants. The most important towns of this region are Abadan, Al-Muhammarah, Al-Ahwaz, Dezful and Fala-hiya.

The author Donal Wilber says that "Arabistan is a prolongation of the lower plains which are situated in southern Iraq." The historian Arnold Wilson considers that Arabistan and all the territories situated in the lower regions between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers form one whole geographic unit which was under Arab domination which extended even to Persia. All those regions are rich with oil which was coveted by the British, the Americans and the Persians.

Short history of Arabistan

Arabistan is an Arab region as it was and still is inhabited by Arab tribes centuries before Christ. These tribes include Bani Murra, Bani Al-Am, Rab'a, Kinana, Ka'b and Tay tribes. Those tribes form one human entity in many parts of the Arab homeland and can be found in Arabistan, Iraq, Hijaz & Najd (now Saudi Arabia), Yemen and Syria. The common features which characterize them are the Arabic language (although with different dialects), geography, history and Arab customs and traditions.

No empire could actually and effectively impose its control over those tribes whether those living in the Arab Peninsula itself or those on its borders. The successive empires exercised nominal rule over them. However Arab-

bistan remained under Muslim-Arab rule until the end of the Abbasid Khaliphate when Baghdad fell to the onslaught of the barbaric Mongols under Hulagu in 1258 AD.

The well-known French Orientalist Maxime Rodinson confirms the supremacy of the Arab tribes in the region. He says that "Arab penetration is very ancient. It certainly started before the advent of Islam especially when the Arab tribes occupied a great part of Mesopotamia in the 8th century before Christ."

With the fall of the Ottoman Empire after World War I and the partition of its empire by the Allies, Iran occupied Arabistan in 1925 and imposed a racist rule against the Arabs. Iran tried to Persianize the territory and its Arab inhabitants but to no avail as they stuck to their Arabism and Arab history despite the persecution of Persian rulers.

Shah Rida or Reza Pahlawi (father of the late Shah Mohammad Rida Pahlawi who was deposed in 1979) not only occupied Arabistan but even in 1927 claimed Bahrain as part of the Iranian territory. It is said that he wrote in his will to his son Mohammad Rida Pahlawi "I have liberated the eastern shore of the Gulf and you have to liberate the western shore." In effect the last Shah claimed Bahrain for Iran for sometime but then renounced that claim. However he occupied the three islands in the Gulf namely the Great Tomb, the Small Tomb and Abu Moussa.

Imperialistic rule of Arabistan by Iran

After the occupation of Arabistan by Iran in 1925, the Iranians imposed the following measures:

- 1-Arabistan was named as the tenth province of Iran, a military governor was appointed at the head of the administration, and existing Arab political, administrative and judicial institutions were suppressed.
- 2-Many military bases and barracks were installed in Arabistan. This militarization shows that the original inhabitants of the region feel that the Iranian presence there is foreign to them, and they have not ceased to clamour for freedom and independence.
- 3-About 25,400 sq. km of Arabistan was definitely attached to Iran. Arab tribes were transferred to north Iran and replaced by Persians.
- 4-Localities, towns, rivers and mountains were given Persian names instead of the original Arabic ones.

5-Use of Arabic language in courts was prohibited, thus considerably impeding the access of Arab inhabitants to the courts.

6-The teaching of Arabic was prohibited and private schools which teach this language were closed.

7-Although the Persians form a small minority in Arabistan, yet they have monopolized the administrative posts and controlled services. It was prohibited for the Arabs to occupy public posts or any post in the army or in the public security.

8-The Iranian government has promulgated a law whereby Arab tribes were divested of their lands which were put under the governor's authority. The Agrarian Reform Law passed subsequently, has considered the expropriation of the Arab land as legal, and this land was distributed among Persian farmers.

9-Arabic books in bookshops or in libraries were confiscated.

By those and other arbitrary measures the Iranian rulers intended to wipe out completely even the original name of this region "Arabistan" which was renamed by the Iranians as "Khuzistan" as shown by an article written by the famous French Orientalist Louis Massignon in 1908.

The claims of the Arabs in Arabistan

During the regime of the late Shah and after the Khomeini came to power, the Arab inhabitants of Arabistan struggled to obtain their rights. They participated in the revolt against the Shah in 1979 and contributed to his fall. They hoped that the Khomeini regime would be favourable to their demands but they were utterly disappointed.

Some of their demands fall under the recognized human rights such as the recognition of their Arab identity, the granting of certain autonomy to them, recognition of the Arab language as second to the Persian in Arabistan, teaching of Arabic in schools, opening of an Arab university in the region and the revision of the laws concerning the agrarian distribution of lands.

Khomeini regime has replied by

applying repressive and oppressive measures. General Waz suppressed the Arab resistance by a blood bath killing 500, injuring 320 people and arresting 700. In effect the Khomeini regime has followed in the steps of the Shah regime in suppressing the liberty and the rights of Arab inhabitants of Arabistan.

The Iranian Imperialist chauvinism

The Khomeini regime does differ in its imperialism from the Shah regime. Iran wants to be a dominant power in the Gulf region and even in the Middle East. It wants to expand at the expense of Iraq and the Gulf Arab states had previously occupied the Iraq and Abu Moussa islands and has ambitious designs over Bahrain which has a big number of inhabitants of Persian origin.

Khomeini himself refuses to speak Arabic although the Holy Quran was revealed in the Arabic language. An example of this chauvinism was when Dr Hassan Khazael visited Khomeini to submit to him the demands of Arab inhabitants of Arabistan. Khomeini refused to speak Arabic during the meeting and Dr Hassan Bani Sadr had to interpret.

Notwithstanding the expansionist and imperialistic aims of the regime and the unjust war which it wages against Iraq which is defending not only its own country but the Arab homeland as a whole, it is to be regretted indeed that some Arab countries are helping Iran and visits are being rendered every now and then to Iran by Arab delegations. This is indeed an irony of this Arab age and one which is one of the worst in which Arab history has recorded.

It is incumbent upon all Arab states to come to the defence of Iraq in its war against Iran. Iraq has never flinched from assisting the Arabs or its sister Arab states in their adversity or in war especially during the 1973 war, when its army joined the Egyptian and Syrian armies against Israel to liberate the Arab land.

The paper pointed out that the joint Arab defence agreement binds all Arab countries to step in for the defence of any part of the Arab world. The paper expressed deep regret for the negative stance of some Arab leaders who back the Iranian regimes aggression against Iraq.

The paper commented that the meeting hasn't actually achieved anything in favour of the Palestinian cause. It rather acquired a broad concern of the world media and even overshadowed the world's concern in the occupied territories civil uprising.

The paper concluded by calling on the Palestinian leadership to review this issue and work for more than just winning a few Israelis to the PLO side.

The paper asserted that the Arabs hope that these contacts and efforts will yield positive results and help in dispelling the clouds of danger which enshroud the Gulf region for over six years and end fighting between the two Muslim neighbouring countries. The paper warned that the expansion of the war will ultimately endanger all sides and create more complication in international relations.

The paper added that the international will is at a turning point because if it analyzes the results of Mr Gouling's visit and other visits by UN officials, it will definitely know that safeguarding world peace begins in the Middle East. To be able to implement peace, it is essential to stop Israeli aggressions that are a constant threat to peace proposals, not only in the region but also in the world, concluded Al Sha'ab.

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Hostages in Lebanon: Who holds who

By Mounir B. Abboud
Star Lebanon Correspondent

BEIRUT — Despite a five-month silence by Islamic fundamentalist kidnappers, Church of England envoy Terry Waite is believed still alive in Lebanon, leading to renewed speculation in the British press he may be released soon.

Waite disappeared in Beirut last January 20 while on a mission to try to negotiate the release of foreigners kidnapped earlier. Waite, 47 and father of four children, is believed held by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad, but there has been no public word on his fate.

Efforts to win his release have been made by both the Archbishop of Canterbury's office at Lambeth Palace in London and the British Foreign Office.

A spokesman for the Archbishop's office said "The common factors coming from reports in Lebanon lead us to believe that Terry Waite is still alive."

Waite is one of well over 20 foreigners either held captive by various factions in Lebanon or feared killed since 1985. They include British, American, French and West German nationals.

There has been recent speculation in Middle East and British newspapers that some hostages — including Waite — have been taken to Iran, but the Tehran government has denied this.

In the past few years, at least 75 foreigners have been kidn-

ped for varying lengths of time by different groups and organizations. Of these, 39 were freed, four escaped, one was rescued and at least six were killed.

Kidnapped CIA station chief William Buckley is now officially pronounced dead, and groups that claimed responsibility for seizing Frenchman Michel Sourat and Briton Alec Collett say they also are dead.

The following is a current list of known kidnap victims, including those confirmed or feared killed in the past two years, the major kidnap groups and their demands.

In addition to Terry Waite, Islamic Jihad holds two Americans and four Frenchmen. The Americans are: Terry Anderson, 39, Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press, abducted 18 March, 1985. Thomas Sutherland, 54, Dean of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Seized 9 June, 1985.

The Frenchmen are: Marcel Carton, 62, French Embassy Attache. Also seized 22 March, 1985.

Jean-Paul Kauffmann, 43, journalist working with the French weekly L'Evenement du Jeudi. Abducted 22 May, 1985.

Michel Sourat, 38, researcher at the French Centre for Studies and Research of the Contemporary Middle East. Kidnapped 22 May, 1985 and claimed by Islamic Jihad to have been killed 5 March, 1986 in retaliation for France's deporta-



TERRY WAITE

tion of four Iraqi Shi'ite activists. Sourat's body has not been found.

Islamic Jihad also claimed, on 4 October, 1985 it killed Buckley to avenge alleged complicity by the United States in an Israeli air raid on the Tunis headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It is widely believed in Western diplomatic and intelligence circles, however, that Buckley died of injuries received while his kidnappers were torturing him to extract information. Buckley, 58, was abducted 16 March, 1984. His body has not been found.

Of several kidnapped victims released by Islamic Jihad, three Americans were freed following mediation by Terry Waite, a former Grenadier Guardsman who joined the Archbishop of Canterbury's office in 1980. They are:

Benjamin Weir, 61, a Presbyterian minister who had worked in Lebanon since 1953. He was kidnapped 8 May 1984 and released 14 September, 1985.

Lawrence Jenico, an American Roman Catholic priest kidnapped 8 January, 1985 and freed 26 July, 1986.

David Jacobsen, 54, director of the American University Hospital, who was seized 28 May 1985 and freed 2 November, 1986.

Islamic Jihad demands the release of 17 convicted terrorists imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the American and French embassies in December 1983.

Previously unknown, Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announced its "birth" 28 January, 1987, by claiming responsibility for the January 24 abduction of four Beirut University College teachers, three Americans and an Indian: Robert Polhill, business studies professor.

Allan Steen, chairman of the journalism department.

Jesse Turner, professor in computer sciences.

Mithileshwar Singh, chairman of the business studies department.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, believed made up largely of Palestinians, demands the release of 400 Lebanese and Palestinians held in Israel.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization is believed to be a largely Shi'ite group loyal to Iran. It holds

Continued on page 18

Acting in unison

THE international conference on Middle East peace convened, its convening of course must not be a goal in itself but a means to reach a settlement which in the first place meets legitimate Arab and Palestinian demands; foremost of which is total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

At such a conference, the Arab group will presumably be represented by Jordan, Syria, Egypt, the Palestinians and probably Lebanon. They will be confronted by an Israeli team whose primary objective is to impede progress towards a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN resolutions.

With the expected strong backing from the American side, the Israelis will seek to turn the conference into an insignificant parley designed solely to lead to direct negotiations between Israel and each of the four or five Arab groups with the aim of concluding separate solutions that in the end may cause more damage to the Arab cause than the present deadlock.

The Israelis have repeatedly made it clear that this is exactly what they want. The United States, with its vacillation and indecisiveness, has left no illusion that it supports the Israeli stance.

Acting in concord, the Israelis and their American allies and render the conference useless. This will signal the end to one of the biggest peace steps in the troubled history of the Middle East in an agonizing fiasco.

To avoid such tragic conclusion, whose repercussions would have far-reaching adverse effects on the future of the Middle East and world peace, the Arabs must make sure that they go to the conference in complete unison and in full accord on the need to speak with one voice on collective demands. The most dangerous element will arise when the Israelis and Americans succeed in splitting the Arab group into isolated teams that can be easily dealt with each separately.

With help from other permanent UN Security Council members, who support Arab demands, the international conference, if it ever convenes, could miraculously work.

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Hostages in Lebanon

Continued from page 19

two Americans and one Frenchman. Joseph Cicippio, 55, deputy comptroller of the American University Hospital, kidnapped 12 September 1986.

Edward Austin Tracy, 58, American book salesman, kidnapped 21 October, 1986.

Jean-Louis Normandin, 34, French television lighting technician, kidnapped 8 March, 1988. These other members of his TV crew were seized at the same time but later released. The Revolutionary Justice Organization has made no specific demands for captives' release.

The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims is believed linked with the Abu Nidal Palestinian guerrilla organization. It claimed responsibility for the execution in April 1986 of United Nations Relief and Works Agency journalist Alec Collett, 64, who was kidnapped 25 March, 1985.

He was said to have been hanged in retaliation for British support of the American air attack on Libya. His body has not been found.

The Revolutionary Commando Cells holds one Briton and one South Korean: John McCarthy, 30, of London, a cameraman with the Worldwide Television news agency, kidnapped 17 April, 1988.

Chae Do Sung, 43, a South Korean embassy official seized 31 January, 1988.

Three hostages from the AUB were executed by the Revolutionary Commando Cells in April 1988 to avenge the American air raid on Libya. They were American Peter Kilburn, a librarian; and Britons Dr John Douglas, 38, a political science professor, and Philip Padfield, 40, head of language teaching.

Two West German business representatives, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, also are still captive. Both have been missing since January this year and are believed held by the pro-Iran Shi'ite group Hezbollah (Party of God), which is demanding release by West Germany of Mohammed Ali Hamadel, arrested at Frankfurt airport in January while carrying concealed explosives.

The United States is seeking extradition of Hamadel, to stand trial on charges of murder and air piracy in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA aircraft, during which a US navy diver was killed.

Another missing Frenchman is freelance photographer Roger Auque, 31, seized by two armed men 13 January as he left his apartment in West Beirut.

Only half-an-hour earlier Auque had been photographing Waite as the church envoy strolled through the streets. An Irish national also is missing in Beirut and feared kidnapped. He is Brian Keenan, who disappeared late last year. Nothing is known of his fate.

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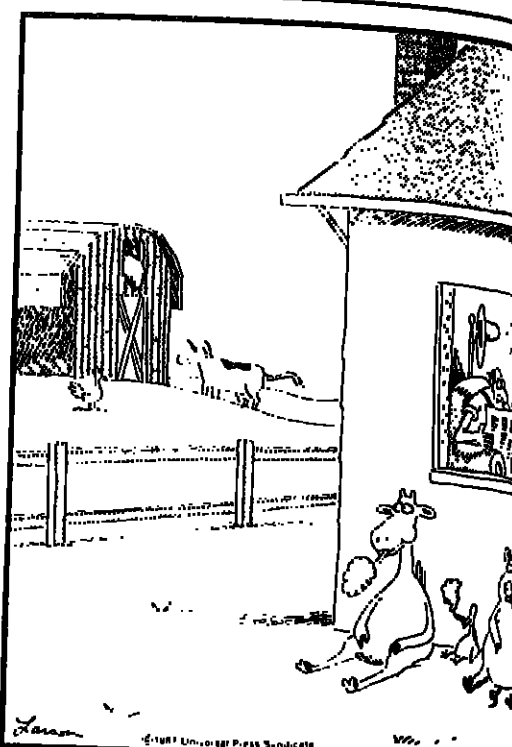
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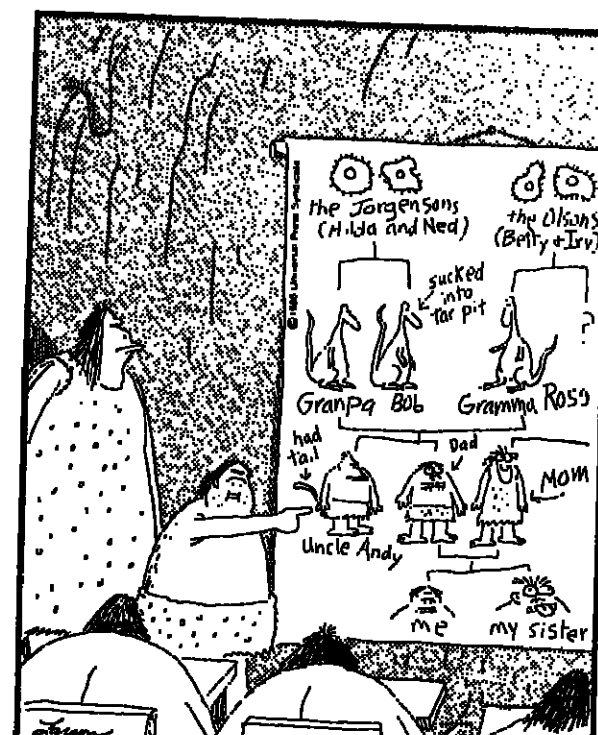
Where all the young farm animals go to smoke

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



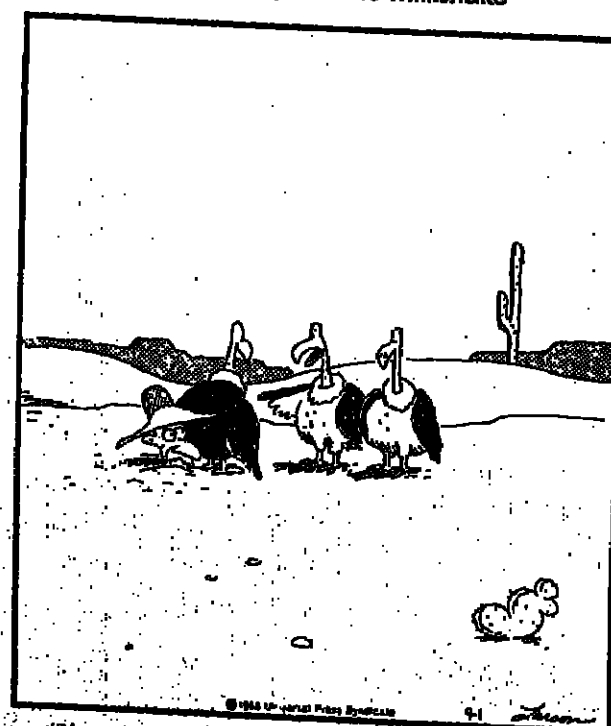
Early attempts at the milkshake



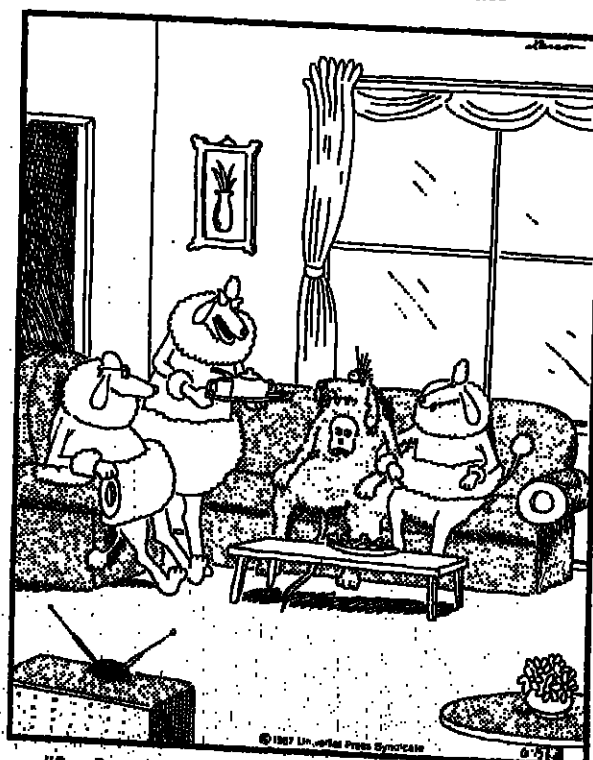
Dirk brings his family tree to class



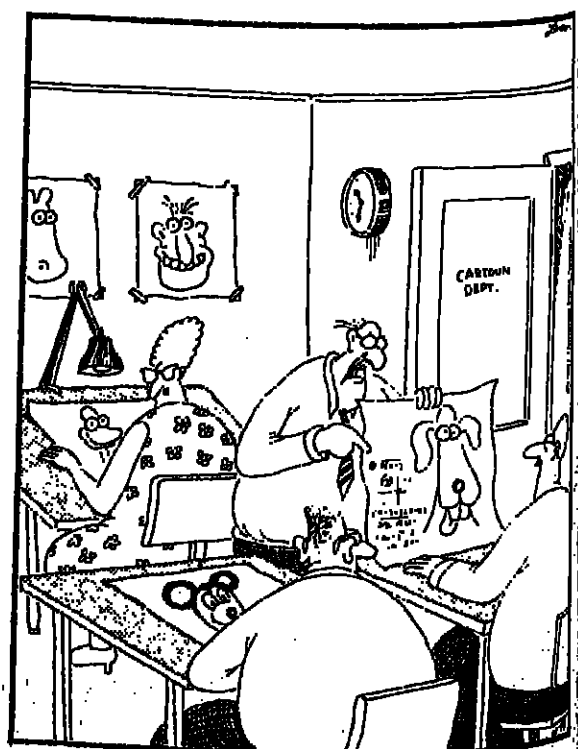
Just another old wives' tale.



"You know what I think, Vernon? I think you're hiding one of those things the Indians bury up to their necks... that's what I think!"



"So, Raymond... Linda tells us you work in the security division of an automobile wreckage site."



"Hey! What's this, Higgins? Physics equations? ... Do you enjoy your job here as a cartoonist, Higgins?"



Your TV guide

Channel 2

Jordan Television Foreign Programmes,
Channel 2 From 27 June — 3 July

French Programmes

Saturday

- 6:00 Les Nouveaux Mondes/A documentary programme about 'Alaska'.
- 7:00 News In French.
- 7:15 Benjamin, Eps 1, part 2: A drama series.

Sunday

- 6:30 A French film.
- 7:00 News In French.
- 7:15 M Benjamin, eps 2, part 1.

Monday

- 6:00 Marie Perle, eps 6, the last episode.
- 7:00 News In French.
- 7:15 Sport Magazine.

Tuesday

- 6:00 A documentary programme, "Villes Dilles D'hommes".
- "Le Solil Sur La Terre": A documentary programme about sun.
- 6:45 L'Ecole Des Fans: A programme for children.
- 7:00 News In French.
- 7:15 Aventures des hommes de la prehistoire, part 5.

Wednesday

- 6:00 "Cinq Filles A Paris": A new drama series/Eps 1.
- 7:00 news In French.
- 7:15 "Aujourd'hui en Jordanie": Reportage produced by Salah Madi.

Thursday

- 6:00 Rure Carnot, eps 1. A new drama series.
- 6:30 Festival De Jazz: A musical programme.
- 7:00 News In French.
- 7:15 French Varieties.

Friday

- 5:30 "Les Enquetes Camelion": A new detective film.
- 7:00 News In French.
- 7:15 "Aujourd'hui En France": Culture Magazine.

English Programmes

Saturday

- 8:30 Music Box.
- 9:30 Dad's Army, "No Spring For Frazer".
- 10:20 Feature Film, "Casino Du Wheels": Starring: Mitchell Rayon and Robert Hogan.

Sunday

- 8:30 Growing Pains.
- 9:10 Conquest, part 2.
- 10:20 Miss Marple, "Newsies".

Monday

- 8:30 Three Up, Two Down.
- 9:10 Magnum.
- 10:20 Whose Baby? episode 4.

Tuesday

- 8:30 The New Cycle Preview.
- 9:10 The Two Mrs Grenvilles.
- 10:20 The Unknown War.

Wednesday

- 8:30 Three's A Crowd.
- 9:10 The Silk Road, New Documentary.
- 10:20 Best Seller, "The Dark Secret of Harvest Home", part 3: starring: Bette Davis and David Ackroyd.

Thursday

- 8:30 Me & My Girl.
- 9:10 Rags to Riches, episode 1.
- 10:20 Feature Film, "Nobody Runs Forever".

Friday

- 8:30 Bill Cosby Show.
- 9:10 Falcon Crest.
- 10:20 Shaka Zulu, episodes 7+8: At Kwa Bulawayo, the whites are guests at a victory celebration. During the festivities, Shaka is stabbed and is seriously hurt. News of his "death" reaches the Cape and the British think their problems are over.



Dadu Mkhize (M-Kay-Zee) plays Shaka's mother Nandi in SHAKA - ZULU on Friday 10:20.

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